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# THE INDEPENDENT

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## THE INFORMATION ONLY

WHERE TO GO AND WHAT TO SEE IN YOUR AREA - EVENING PAGES 15-18

**WILL SELF:  
WHY EASTER  
IS NOT FOR ME**

REVIEW FRONT

# For the US, war now has a face: the lost patrol of B Troop

BY KIM SENGUPTA  
and ANDREW MARSHALL  
in Washington

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THE PICTURES were grainy, staged, yet none the less dramatic for that - American soldiers with the Stars and Stripes clearly visible on their left shoulders, faces bruised and full of apprehension, appearing on Serbian television as prisoners of war.

Until yesterday morning, few Americans knew that their country had ground forces anywhere near Kosovo. But there they were on the morning television shows - a shocking reminder to Americans that war has a face. The three men of B Troop, 1st Squadron of the 4th Cavalry Regiment, captured on the border between Macedonia and Kosovo could have a huge impact in London, Brussels and Washington. As Nato confronts a war that is going wrong.

Staff Sgt Andrew A Ramirez, Staff Sgt Christopher J Stone and Specialist Steven M Gonzales set off from their base at Kumanovo at 7.30am on Wednesday on a routine patrol.

The 1st of the 4th is an old cavalry unit which long ago traded in its horses for

Humvees, all-terrain vehicles. "One Quarter Cav" - as the unit is known - was deployed to Macedonia on 3 March for "Task Force Able Sentry", a mission to observe the border area. They were on a daytime reconnaissance exercise and the terrain they covered along the Macedonian border with Yugoslavia was rugged and hilly.

They carried only light weapons and were, it is claimed, under express orders not to cross into enemy territory. "They were observing the border and reporting on activities along the border," said Capt John Clearwater, spokesman for the 1st Infantry Division.

Tim Baker, a photographer from the force's newspaper, *Stars and Stripes*, spent Tues-

day night and Wednesday on pa-

trol with them. "They are just

your basic, good soldiers, nothing special," he said.

"You just kind of shoot the breeze with them. It's very cold up there, so at night you didn't really talk, just tried to keep warm."

But the three men were in an area inhabited almost exclusively by Serbs with their intrinsic sympathies with their kith and kin in former Yugoslavia. Armed bands roam the area, and, it is suspected, supply information to Serbian forces. There had been reports that the Serbs were mining bridges and roads on the border to prevent Nato forces from crossing into Kosovo. There had been a build-up of Serb and KLA forces, and rising tension.

The lost patrol split off from

the rest of the convoy in the af-

ternoon. But at around 2.30pm,

things suddenly became any-

thing but routine. There were

frantic messages back to base

that they were under fire and

surrounded. Then there were

no more silence. Search-and-res-

cue teams numbering around

a hundred, from the 1st Army

Division were immediately

scrambled to the area of the

radio message on British,

French and Italian helicopters.

But despite an exhaustive

search they failed to find the

patriot.

The first reports hit the news

wires and television at about

7.30pm in Washington, but

there was confusion. At mid-

night, President Bill Clinton

was informed, but still there

was no news. Two hours later,

the first pictures appeared.

"The next we saw, they were

badly beaten up and shown on

television in Belgrade," General

Wesley Clark, Nato's Supreme

Commander, said yesterday.

Coming so soon after the

loss of the supposedly invisible

"Stealth" fighter-bomber, the

capture of the soldiers is a fur-

ther embarrassing blow to

American military prestige. An

inquest is already under way.

The Yugoslav government

says the patrol was in Kosovo;

the US says it was in Macedo-

nia. The unit had been in

country for only a few weeks,

though the military says it had

trained for the mission for six

months. "These men knew the

territory. Every indication

that we've had is they were op-

erating well within their bound-

aries of Macedonia."

The Humvees had satellite navi-

gation equipment.

The status of the unit was

unclear. "Able Sentry" had been

part of the cumbersome United Nations Preventive Deployement force, whose mandate

had come to an end four days

earlier when China vetoed it.

The State Department said the

soldiers were in "non-combatant status", but the White

House told Congress last week

that Task Force Able Sentry

was to be assigned to Nato for

protection purposes. Its future

does not seem to have been fi-

nalised in detail.

For the moment, there is

only shock, anger and fear. "We

have all seen the pictures. We

don't like it, we don't like the

way they are treated and we

have a long memory of these

things," said General Clark.

Staff Sgt Stone's father, Jim

Stone, speaking from his home

in Port Huron, Michigan, said

yesterday: "We simply don't

know what is going on. We are

pretty much in a state of shock.

This is not the sort of thing you

expect."

Having milked the capture of

the soldiers for utmost public-

ity value - by parading them on

television in violation of the

Geneva Convention's rules

against humiliating captive sol-

diers - the Serbs still made a

stab at appearing correct. The

Yugoslavian Vice-President,

Vuk Draskovic, said: "Nothing

wrong will happen to them. We

are respecting the enemy. We

will be sticking to the terms of

the Geneva Convention, you

can be sure of that." He then

added more ominously: "They

are going to face Serb justice".

Tanjug, the Yugoslav news

agency, said yesterday that the

three would be tried under mil-

itary law.

Mr Clinton, speaking at the

Norfolk naval base in Virginia,

warned: "President Milosevic

should make no mistake, the

United States takes care of its

own." But for the boys of the lost

patrol, it may prove to be a long

drawn out stay in the care of the

Yugoslav military.



Serbian television footage showing the men the Serbs say are American soldiers who disappeared near the Yugoslav-Macedonian border

## Pensioner gets life for murdering Jews

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

A LIMPING white-haired pensioner yesterday became the first person to be convicted in Britain of war crimes committed during the Second World War. In an historic decision, an Old Bailey jury found Anthony Sawoniuk, 78, guilty of murdering 18 Jews while serving as a police officer in Nazi-occupied Belarus between 1941 and 1944.

None of the jurors was born when Sawoniuk committed the crimes for which he was sentenced to life imprisonment. He is the second oldest person in

British legal history to receive such a sentence.

During the eight-week trial, the court heard how Sawoniuk, from south London, was actively involved in the Nazis' so-called Final Solution. Recruited in his home town of Domachovo, he enthusiastically led "search and kill" operations to track down those who escaped the massacre of 2,900 Jews on 20 September 1942. At least one witness said Sawoniuk

was present on the day of the

massacre. The judge, Mr Justice Potts, told Sawoniuk: "Although you held a lowly rank in

the hierarchy of those involved in

the liquidation of Jews in

eastern Europe, to the Jews of

Domachovo, it must have

seemed otherwise."

The jury took three days to

reach its verdicts. Sawoniuk was

found guilty unanimously on

the first count of murder and by a majority on the second count.

As the jury returned its verdict, Sawoniuk, pale and

troubled, slumped backwards in

his seat.

The trial, which cost an estimated £1m, was the result of an eight-year investigation into war crimes costing £10m. Sawoniuk is likely to be one of just two people to be charged.

Sawoniuk's solicitor, Martin Lee, said: "We are instructed to consider grounds for appealing against conviction. In my view this case has demonstrated that the War Crimes Act 1991 has established a bad precedent in respect of retrospective criminal

legislation. Retrospective criminal

legislation is bad practice and I

cannot see how this prosecution has made it good law.

Millions have been wasted by

the Government on prosecuting

a nobody from south London

when hundreds of relatives of

the survivors of the First and

Second World Wars are desper-

ate for recompence."

The Crown Prosec



## WAR IN THE BALKANS



Some 4,000 ethnic Albanians from Kosovo walking along the railway tracks towards Macedonia after disembarking from a train at the General Jankovic border crossing in Yugoslav territory yesterday

Reuters

# Serb juggernaut lays waste a nation

In a great fan-shaped advance the Serbian juggernaut was still rolling south on a broad front last night, laying waste to scores of towns, villages and hamlets in a ferocious and naked attempt to wipe an entire society and its people from the map. In a few days the ancient province of Kosovo will cease to exist and more than a million ethnic Albanians will be scattered, perhaps for ever.

From the rim of the mountain chain forming the border with Macedonia it is possible to see distant evidence of the catastrophe. The sky bears red stars at night of forces on the horizon.

But the real evidence is the great suffering tide of humanity being driven forward remorselessly by the juggernaut. It is made up mostly of women, children and old people stripped of their money, valuables and papers. The numbers are becoming meaningless. In one pocket north of the border there are said to be 50,000; to the west there are perhaps 150,000 more.

**JAMES DALRYMPLE  
IN SKOPJE**

The force that is driving them, which may be more than 100,000 strong, is spearheaded by tanks and artillery of the Serbian regular army but it now seems clear they are only the advance guard of something far more deadly, something that has not been seen in Europe for more than 50 years.

Descriptions of the Serb tactics are almost identical in each assault. It would be impossible to list the dozens of villages and hamlets that have been razed and their populations decimated into the fields and hills. But in

the largest urban centres the evidence of massive "ethnic cleansing" is clear. We know the large town of Mitrovica in the north-west is deserted, a ghost town. The heart of the city of Peć has been burning for days and its entire ethnic Albanian population gone. Prizren, in the south-east, is almost a total ruin, its shops and homes looted and its entire male population missing. In Pristina, the capital, the Serbs have been more selective. Only the large Albanian neighbourhoods have been shelled, torched and turned to ruins.

From every one of these places the flow of refugees has been huge. So has the level of theft. Apart from their cash, valuables, passports and papers, there are an estimated 6,000 vehicles parked for miles north of the Macedonian border and now the property of the looting army.

The Serbs are using the rail system to make the flow faster, with trainloads of Albanians, loaded to the roof in Pristina and dumped in the centre of

newly sown minefields - miles from the border. An estimated 7,000 walked in a column stretching five miles yesterday. But the real mystery is the missing young men, intellectuals, teachers, doctors, lawyers, journalists and political leaders of every party. The guerrilla fighters of the KLA, who are getting reports out to Nato, say they have identified a mass grave with hundreds of bodies near Orahovac. In a river the bodies of 80 males have been seen.

This monstrous and efficient military machine trained and controlled from Belgrade must have been built up over months - even while President Milošević's delegates were discussing peace in France. Its speed of movement, coordination and tactics are the work of preparation that speaks of long-held objectives and long-term political planning.

In each attack the technique is the same: frontal assault by heavy armoured units shelling from a distance, followed by ve-

hicles containing special-force units, followed by sinister and highly trained special-duty groups.

They have a bewildering number of acronyms. But their purpose is the same: to terrorise the population into paralysis, to weed out those whose names are on their lists, and to rob, rape and abuse the others into flight. The main specialist force is the MUP, a gendarmerie some 10,000 men. It controls the PJP, which has been responsible for more

atrocities than any other group. They call themselves police, but they are in effect mobile light infantry with mortars, machine-guns and armoured troop carriers. Commanded by a major-general, they are split into battalion-strength units.

In Pristina alone, the KLA says, there are 5,000 in the 24th Special Police Detachment, split into six groups. As back-up they have some 8,000

servicemen's bodyguard unit. There are only about 500 of them but they have been present - in small groups of 15 to 25 - at every atrocity. They have stylised black uniforms topped by red berets and their faces are always masked. The RDV, a kind of modern Gestapo, work in plainclothes.

They are responsible for the so-called "black" and "wet" operations - involving the seeking out of named individuals. They are the quiet men with the lists, but they are known to be experts in torture and killing.

And, inevitably - following the main action like vultures over an abattoir and specialising in looting, burning and the rape of young women - there are the thugs and criminals of the two main war-criminal gangs, controlled by Zeljko Raznatović, the man known as Arkan, and his rival, Franko Simatović.

The brutalities of these men have been seen in every war zone that has racked the former republic of Yugoslavia. Arkan's men became notorious in Bosnia for gouging out the eyes of old women, and both men have been heavily involved in every criminal activity - from immigrant smuggling to drug-dealing - yet both enjoy the patronage of the top Serbian government officials.

Arkan, who has been seen recently in the Belgrade, denies his men are there.

But one witness, a journalist for German state radio called Valanita Saratini, watched as a group of men wearing the uniforms of the infamous Arkan Tigers took a young journalist from his office in Pristina and shot him in an alley.

They took away five other journalists from the city's main daily newspaper and they have not been seen again. Ms Saratini, who escaped after six days in hiding with her husband, a university lecturer, and their two children, gave a first-hand account of the "ethnic cleansing" techniques.

"First the tanks seal off the area of the city," she said. "I saw 30 tanks in one street. Then they just batter down the doors of houses, smash the windows of shops - taking anything, from liquor to jewellery, that takes their fancy - and drive the people out. But always there are the plainclothes men with their clipboards and they ask for the names. When one they have on their list is found they take him away. Then there is shooting. Then they go on to the next place."

Yesterday at the Macedonian border there was a new problem for the thousands arriving in the deep ravine they have to pass through. The Macedonian authorities, now alarmed to the point of national tension, have stopped processing them for hours at a stretch - leaving them without food or water, without toilet facilities or heating - while Serb police units push them forward from miles up the road.

From the hills overlooking the scene it looked like a rock-concert crowd. But there was no singing, just the crying of infants and the pleas of mothers begging for food.

## Belgrade displays its own casualties of the battle

### THE WOUNDED

BY ROBERT FISCHER IN BELGRADE



A civilian wounded in NATO raids on Belgrade Reuters

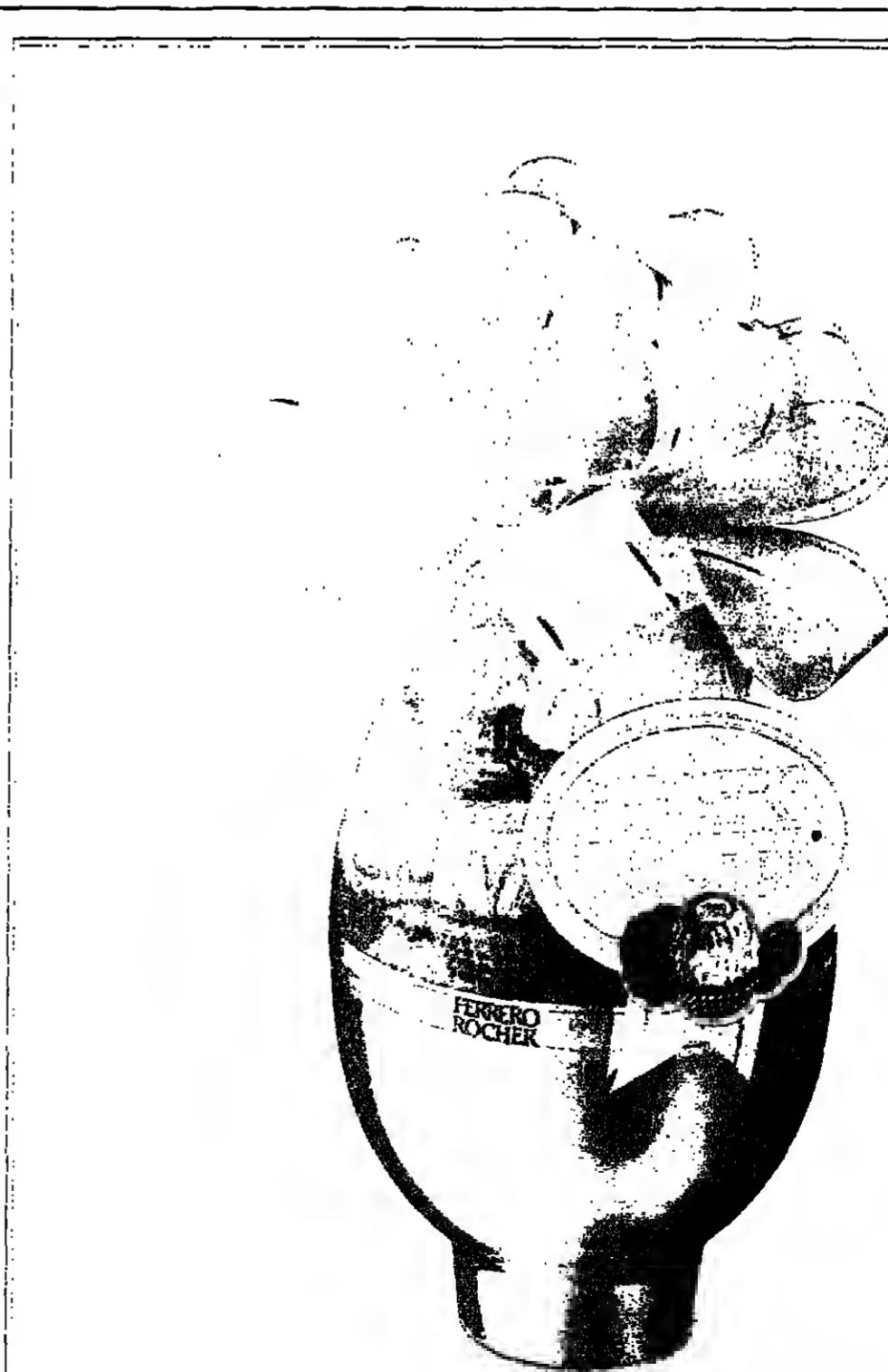
The doctors' message is simple. If Nato decides to attack the Belgrade headquarters of its principal enemies in Kosovo, then the Serbian Medical Centre is going to be hit.

In one bed lies Dejan Lukic, 13, another victim from Loznica though this time with a birthplace of special horror. He was originally a Serb resident of the east Bosnian town of Srebrenica and was driven from his home by Muslim forces in 1992. It was those same Muslims who held Srebrenica as it filled up with Muslim refugees during the Bosnian war and it was their menfolk who were the victims of the 1995 atrocity when thousands were executed by Serb militiamen. By then, Dejan Lukic was 25 miles away in Loznica.

He was still there last week when Nato began raiding the eastern bank of the Drina. Doctors believe he was running for his life after a missile explosion when he was hit by concrete from a collapsing building. He never regained consciousness. But his eyes moved yesterday - a good sign, according to the doctors. He may live.

At least 22 war-wounded have been transferred to this Belgrade hospital alone since the start of the Nato bombardment but others - physically untouched by shrapnel - have not survived their reaction to the bombing. Boris Grubacic was 18 and fell into depression when he heard that Nato and Serbia had gone to war. He had been "ethnically cleansed" from Croatia in 1996 with 170,000 other Serbs. Perhaps his experiences in Croatia three years ago had unbalanced his mind.

"But what can we do? We have a major hospital here next to places which may be targeted. We cannot move these patients, we have no bunkers, we have nowhere to take our patients to. We cannot take the wounded and sick off life support machines in the wards."



WHY NOT SPOIL SOMEONE FOR EASTER?

ON THE second floor of the Serbian Clinical Centre in Belgrade, are victims of the Balkan war, who will never be mentioned in any Nato briefing. There's a 14-year-old boy with his head crushed, lying in a coma, eyes half-closed, a fat oxygen tube down his throat. There's a middle-aged farmer hit in the head by shrapnel and expected to die within a few hours. A little further down the emergency ward is another boy - 13 this time - with his head swathed in bandages, moving in agony, his brain damaged and his right leg fractured by a falling building. They are Nato's victims.

Our victims, I suppose. Standing at their bedside, the phrase "collateral damage" seems somehow obscene. Ivan Tanašević, the 14-year-old from the Drina river valley, was wounded in a Nato air raid on Loznica, and his father came to see him on Wednesday. "He asked if he could see his son," Dr Dragana Vučadinović says. "I said, yes, but that Ivan was in a coma. The father sat by his bed here and cried. He is a farmer. Yes, I told him his son is very bad but that we wouldn't know what will happen for another few days. Yes, the boy is likely to die."

Of course, walking the emergency ward of this modern hospital, one thinks of other human suffering far away to the south of the exhausted masses scrambling over the borders of Albania and Macedonia and Montenegro, of executions and of "ethnic cleansing". But the victims of our bombs die too - nine of them, all originally Serb refugees from Croatia, were torn to pieces in a Nato raid on Niš last week; they had been living in an abandoned army barracks.

Dobrica Vučković is likely to join them soon. He was a farmer and appears to have been in his fields near Krajevo when a Nato missile exploded a few metres from him. Pieces of metal smashed into his head and the blast caused what the

## WAR IN THE BALKANS

# Delays cause misery on the border

## THE EXODUS

BY EMMA DALY in Morini, Albania

EMMA BONINO, the European Commissioner for Overseas Aid, spent 20 minutes at this border crossing yesterday, where thousands of exhausted people languished in their cars, on tractors and on horse-drawn carts.

They were waiting patiently to be processed by the Albanian authorities, who had suddenly decided to add to the misery by taking the name of every refugee crossing instead of waving them through as they had been doing since the exodus began on Saturday.

After her lightning visit by helicopter, instead of the arduous seven-hour road trip, Ms Bonino and her entourage departed for further meetings with UN officials about the refugee crisis.

The pitiful exodus continues from Kosovo, with no mercy shown to the old, the sick, nor the poor, as they pour out of the embattled province under the vicious Serb promise - Albania or death.

The border crossing is now split into two lanes, with cars on the right, pedestrians on the left. With at least 100,000 people said to be jamming the road, there was no set-up in sight.

Even Doda left Pristina, 120km away, at 10am on Wednesday and arrived in Albania 29 hours later.

"The police organised the trip straight to Albania - they didn't let us go anywhere else. I did not want to leave Kosovo but I had to because of the police," he said.

They came banging on the doors and shouting, and saying if we don't leave now a bullet is waiting for us - either Albania or death."

Thousands of refugees who had walked for hours were slumped in a grassy field just beside the border.

They were mostly women and children bundled up in brightly coloured jackets and carrying pathetic items of luggage - clothes wrapped in blankets, or hulking plastic bags,

or the odd suitcase carried on the shoulder.

They were waiting for some kind of transport out - but it was in short supply.

Where were the buses and mini-vans that in previous days, had shipped refugees out at the government's expense? "Ask the UNHCR [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees]," said one Western official, grimly.

The few foreign aid workers who are already in place at the border crossing have expressed anger and distress at the delay in setting up proper facilities for the refugees.

It seems to have taken an inordinately long time for the international aid agencies to grasp the scale of the crisis, despite the fact that it was obvious to many observers that Albania - and the main road crossing at Morini - would be a prime destination for Kosovars expelled by the Serbs.

Aid workers from smaller aid agencies handed out small jars of baby food - peach puree - to bemused refugees walking over the discarded wrappings of emergency rations that are now depleted.

As a result of the delays in passing the border, at least one refugee died of exposure.

The body of Rexhep Nimanji, 72, lay cradled in his widow's arms, in the back of a tractor-trailer loaded with 35 children.

"He died today, at about

8am," said a friend, Skender Mauriqi. "He was not sick but it was very cold. We stayed outside all night in the rain."

"We left Pristina because we had to leave Pristina. They gave us about five minutes to leave our houses, saying if we do not do this, we take a bullet," he said wryly.

Nedret Cetaku, an electronic graduate forced under the Serbian system to work as a mechanic, was desperate to get his pregnant wife, Rabija,

into hospital, as she is due to give birth within 48 hours.

"We left Pristina because we had to leave Pristina. They gave us about five minutes to leave our houses, saying if we do not do this, we take a bullet," he said wryly.

Valbona Bajgora, whose family had not eaten for three days because they were too frightened to leave home until forced out by masked gunmen, said

many of those expelled from the capital were told to gather at the train station.

"The whole of Pristina was there," she said bitterly. From there, they were taken by bus to the village of Zure and made to walk to the border. "One of my Serb neighbours arrived the moment I went down the stairs, and followed me out carrying my television and my video," she added.

But others, rather than taking advantage of the anarchy, tried to help.

"I saw some Serb neighbours who were crying, looking at us leaving. One Serb who lives near the mosque came out, begging the soldiers not to kick us out," Ms Mauriqi said. "But they were shooting in the air. Just like in Hitler's time. I never thought I would live long enough to see this."



The European commissioner Emma Bonino (left), walks past a group of ethnic Albanian refugees from Kosovo at Morini yesterday AP

## Dixons

### The Yamaha keyboard everyone's raving about

Whatever style of dance music you're into, whether it's Hip Hop, Rave, House or Techno, this keyboard can help you create it. Packed with fantastic features like a built-in sampler, real time control knobs with 100 patterns and 140 voices, the Yamaha DJX is guaranteed to be music to your ears.

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## Double-speak and jaw-jaw from the 'Ministry of Truth'

### THE LANGUAGE OF WAR

BY THOMAS SUTCLIFFE

WINSTON CHURCHILL made his famous remark about it being better to "jaw-jaw than to war-war" in 1954. It has been a favourite of conciliators ever since, but is it possible to wonder now whether Churchill's chiming opposition has any real force any longer.

Jaw-jaw is war-war these days, when statements from the combatants instantly enter a global arena to compete for the vital ground of public sympathies. This can take surreal forms - a conversation continuing when the possibilities of mutual understanding have long disappeared. On BBC2's Newsnight programme the other night, Jeremy Paxman could be seen going hand-to-hand with a Serb spokesman from the Ministry of Truth, but their exchange of loaded words was only a local detail in a much larger verbal fire-fight, one contested over international satellite transmissions.

The unusual conditions that prevail in this new terrain were underlined by one of the earliest statements made - the unequivocal statement that there was no intention to commit ground troops to fight for the cause, only to reinforce a victory. How often can a war of such trumpeted resolve have commenced with such a candid confession of the limits of resolution? The declaration broke the most elementary rule of tactics - that you should tell your enemy nothing that will assist

him. It suggested to President Stobdan Milosevic that he had little to lose in initial defiance.

President Milosevic's failure to capitulate as the first bombs fell forced the war of words to move from the initial stand-off raids to its second, more dangerous, phase. Last week, addressing the House of Commons, the Prime Minister used words such as "repression" and "suppression", far more abstract in their force than terms such as "murder" or "slaughter", which have appeared more recently.

True, Mr Blair stripped Mr Milosevic of his honourific - thus giving the Serbian President, in terms of British journalistic practice, the same naked form of address as a convicted criminal. He used the words "ethnic cleansing" and "barbarism", too, but we still had not quite arrived at the fierce excoriation of last weekend. He ended with his sole formal courtesy: asking the House to join him in "urging President Milosevic to choose the path of peace".

On Thursday, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, was also talking of "President Milosevic", and he, too, edged towards the graver indictments: President Milosevic, he said, "was the prime player in the war in Bosnia which gave our language the hideous term, 'ethnic cleansing'".

A judicious insinuation which fell some way short of outright accusation. Over the weekend George Robertson, the

Secretary of State for Defence, put that right, with the first use of the word "genocide".

For some, this new tone is a kind of overkill - marking a thrill of panic in the advocates of bombing that public support might be waning; that there may be a slow leak in Nato's moral superiority which will need constant pumping to counter. For others, it simply marks the fact that a war of words is subject to the same rules of escalation as any other kind.

The Prussian general Clausewitz wrote once that "moderation in war is a logical absurdity". But this may be better understood by Serbia's verbal warriors than it is by ours - you will still find a finer example of total verbal war in Belgrade than Whitehall. A few days ago Serbian television carried this commentary: "Things have obviously not been going at all as they imagined they would for the criminals and aggressors against our country. That is why they have been trying from the very first day to justify in front of the public the crime and genocide."

The problem is that President Bill Clinton wants to guarantee the rights not of all, but only of the Albanians. That is the problem, you stupid murderer, you Adolf Goebbels Clinton, you embarrassment and blemish on the United States and the world."

We have not yet reached that level of firepower but it may not be far off.

## How to help the refugees

THE INDEPENDENT is appealing to readers to help refugee victims of the war in Kosovo who have triggered the biggest humanitarian disaster in Europe since the Second World War.

More than 150,000 Albanians have fled Kosovo in the past week. Impoverished neighbouring countries are already overwhelmed by the human tide of misery as long columns of cold, distraught people with virtually no possessions and no means of support try to cross borders to safety.

The British aid organisations at the forefront of the international relief operation say they need a massive injection of funds to alleviate the plight of the refugees.

Donations to the Independent appeal will be handled by

HOW TO MAKE A DONATION  
Send a cheque or postal order to:  
**Independent Kosovo Appeal**

Disasters Emergency Committee  
PO Box 2710  
London W1N 5AD

Cheques payable to:

**KOSOVO APPEAL**

Call: 0990 22 22 33 to make a telephone credit card donation

Montenegro. At least 100,000 refugees have crossed into Albania alone.

The money raised by the Independent will be used to buy food, shelter, warm clothes and sanitation for the displaced people. Tents, blankets and medical supplies are also being sent to the region. The weather is still wintry in the Balkans, and most of the refugees have only the clothes on their backs.

A telephone line has been set up by the Disasters Emergency Committee to take credit card pledges to the appeal, and donations by cheque will be handled free by banks.

The appeal will be backed by a campaign of television and radio broadcasts as well as a series of newspaper advertisements.



# Declaration will force IRA's hand

THE DECLARATION represents an apparently simple yet highly subtle attempt to square the circle between the republican and Unionist stances on arms decommissioning. It clearly offers a way out of the weapons quagmire that has slowed progress for so long.

Yet its carefully clipped phrases also contain a lot of

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK  
Ireland Correspondent

pain, in particular for the republican movement, which is in effect being required to agree to seeing "some arms put beyond use".

The basic idea is to lay out a set of carefully choreographed steps designed to

achieve the Unionist demand for guns up front with the republican refusal to be bullied by David Trimble into acceding to preconditions set by him. The document thus aims at both bringing about arms decommissioning and securing Sinn Féin's entry into the new executive.

Step one is for the parties to

nominate their members for the executive, in which Sinn Féin's electoral support entitles them to two of the 10 seats. Next is the "collective act of reconciliation", which plainly means decommissioning, although that word is carefully avoided.

For the benefit of republicans, who insist they will do

nothing that smacks of surrender, a new tone would be set through the holding of ceremonies of remembrance. An act of decommissioning could therefore take on the character not of a gesture of surrender or implicit apology, but rather one of memorial for the dead, including dead IRA members.

At this point Britain would devolve significant powers to the new political set-up, with the establishment of a web of new institutions linking all parts of these islands. The Government would also undertake a significant rundown in security, such as closing some army bases.

Once the Canadian Gener-

al John de Chastelain and his International Commission on Decommissioning verifies that some arms had been put beyond use, the way will be open for the final political piece of the jigsaw: the assembly confirming the nominations of the new executive, including the two Sinn Féin members.

The document has not been

formally endorsed by the major parties, and in particular has yet to be accepted by Sinn Féin. Tony Blair and Bertie Ahern will be back in Belfast on 13 April for more negotiations, which they describe as a final round of meetings. Those can be expected to be just as intense and as difficult as those of this week.



Gerry Adams, Sinn Féin leader, listening as Tony Blair and the Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, make their proposals yesterday Crispin Rodwell

## 'This is our true opportunity for a new beginning'

*The following is the edited text of the declaration delivered by the two prime ministers at Hillsborough Castle yesterday:*

"It is now one year since the Good Friday Agreement was concluded. Last May it was emphatically endorsed by the people, North and South, and as such it now represents their democratic will. The Agreement, in its own words, offers a truly historic opportunity for a new beginning. It gives us a chance, in this generation, to transcend the bitter legacy of the past and to transform relationships within Northern Ireland, between North and South, and between these islands.

"All parties firmly believe that the violence we have all lived through must be put behind us. Never again should we or our children have to suffer the consequences of conflict. It must be brought to a permanent end.

"In partnership together we want to ensure a future free from conflict. The realisation of that future places a heavy obligation on us all, individually and collectively... It is encouraging and important that, even though much remains to be done, very substantial progress has already been made in turning the promise of the Agreement into a reality. We must not forget or underplay how far we have come... The Northern Ireland Assembly was elected last June and has since been preparing for devolution. The international agreement signed in Dublin on 8 March provides for the establishment of the North-South ministerial council and implementation bodies, the British-Irish Council and the British-Irish Intergovernmental Conference.

"The Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission has been established and its members appointed, and the new Equality Commission has been legislated for. Comparable

steps by the Irish Government are well under way.

"The needs of victims of violence, and their families, including those of the disappeared, are being addressed in both jurisdictions, though we acknowledge that for many their pain and suffering will never end.

"Steps have been taken towards normalisation of security arrangements and practices, while the Commission on Policing for Northern Ireland and the review of criminal justice are both well advanced in their vital work. Numerous prisoners, in both jurisdictions, have benefited from mechanisms providing for their accelerated release.

"Against this background there is agreement among all parties that decommissioning is not a precondition but is an obligation deriving from their commitment in the Agreement, and that it should take place within the time-scale envisaged in the Agreement, and through the efforts of the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning (IICD).

"Sinn Féin have acknowledged these obligations but are unable to indicate the time scale on which decommissioning will begin. They do not regard the Agreement as imposing any requirement to make a start before the establishment of the new institutions. The Ulster Unionist Party do not wish to move to the establishment of the new institutions without some evident progress with decommissioning.

"It would be a tragedy if this difference of view about timing and the sequence of events prevented the implementation of the Agreement from advancing. We believe that decommissioning will only happen against a background where implementation is actively moving forward. Contin-

ued progress in establishing the new institutions will in itself create confidence. On the other hand, it is understandable that those who take the next steps in implementation should seek to be assured that these steps are not irrevocable if, in the event, no progress is made with decommissioning.

"We therefore propose the following way forward. On (date to be set) nominations will be made under the d'Hondt procedure of those to take up office as ministers when powers are devolved.

"At a date to be proposed by the IICD but not later than (one month after nomination date) a collective act of reconciliation will take place. This will see some arms put beyond use on a voluntary basis, in a manner which will be verified by the IICD and further moves on normalisation and demilitarisation in recognition of the changed situation on security.

"In addition to the arrangements in respect of military material, there will at all times be ceremonies of remembrance of all victims of violence, to which representatives of all parties and the two governments, and all churches, will be invited.

"Around the time of the act of reconciliation, powers will be devolved and the British-Irish Agreement will enter into force.

"The following institutions

will then be established: the

North-South Ministerial Council,

the North-South Implementation Bodies, the

British-Irish Council and the

British-Irish Intergovernmental Conference.

"By (one month after nomination date), the IICD will make a report on progress. It is understood by all that the successful implementation of the Agreement will be achieved if these steps are taken within the proposed time-scales; if they are not taken, the nominations mentioned above will fail to be confirmed by the Assembly."

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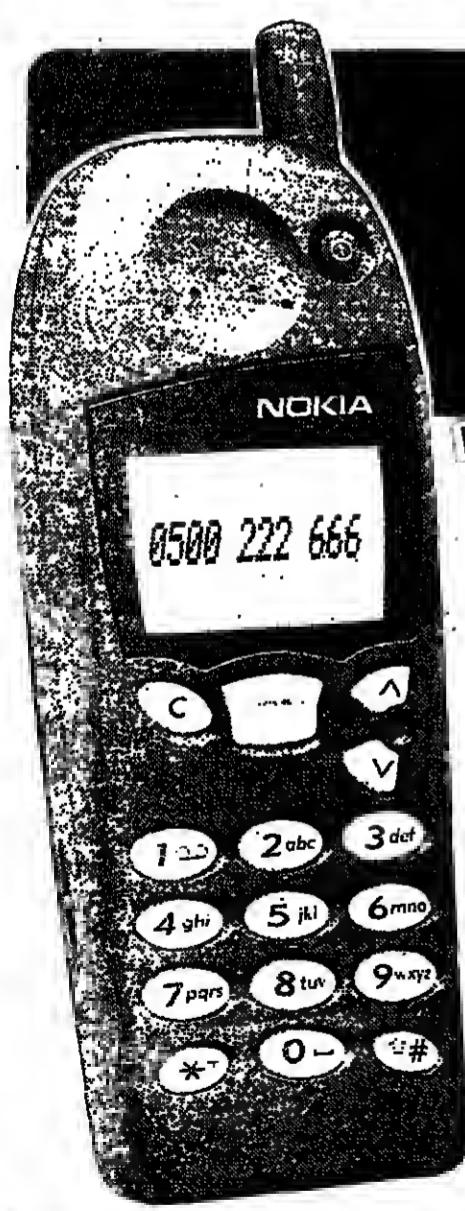
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# land Deal crowns Ulster's year of progress

**THE OUTLINE** of a decommissioning agreement that emerged yesterday was just the latest in a series of hugely important developments which have been among the most eventful in Northern Ireland's history.

The past year has encompassed both remarkable political movement and appalling personal tragedies. While violence and political movement have gone hand in hand, optimists can find comfort in the fact that, latterly, violence has dropped, while politics looks to be taking on a new momentum.

The Good Friday Agreement was clearly a momentous development, winning as it did the support of most of the local parties and, for the first time, producing a document endorsed by Ulster unionists and Irish republicans. But continuing differences of opinion between the two sides on how the document should be interpreted, especially on the issue of arms decommissioning, has provided a discordant backdrop.

Joint referendums in Northern Ireland and in the Republic provided a huge popular mandate for the agreement.

In the south the pro-accord vote was more than 90 per cent, while in the north it reached 71 per cent. That 71 per cent figure was arguably one of the most significant political events in Northern Ireland's history, in that no other political proposal had won such broad endorsement.

The vote signalled a profound change in the political landscape, offering as it did the first glimpse of an emerging civil society, with large sections of the two communities signalling a readiness to work together. While tribalism remained highly visible, the sense that a new start was being made has been palpable in

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK  
Ireland Correspondent

many circles. While the referendums unquestionably constituted a mandate of great political and indeed moral force, the northern vote also showed up a serious weakness in the support base for the accord. Analysis of the 71 per cent total showed that at best only a narrow majority of Protestants voted Yes.

This, with the proliferation of Unionist groupings that emerged in the elections to the new Stormont assembly, showed Protestant opinion was both structurally fractured and deeply divided on the accord.

The Rev Ian Paisley and his followers were, unsurprisingly, completely against it, but so too was another substantial section of Unionist opinion.

This situation was bound to make life difficult for David Trimble, leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, and he responded by toughening his position on decommissioning to the point where this week's further bout of negotiations became necessary.

The great surge of communal hope and international goodwill produced by the Good Friday Agreement and the referendums was followed in July by serious street disorder arising from the Drumcree marching confrontation. Intimidation and clashes, mostly between loyalists and the police, spread to many parts of Northern Ireland.

The episode ended with the deaths of three young boys, the Quinns, in a loyalist firebombing attack. Afterwards the widespread protests petered out, though sporadic trouble continued in Portadown throughout the year.

August brought an incident as horrifying as it was unexpected, when republican re-

gades bombed the Co Tyrone town of Omagh on a Saturday afternoon. The 29 deaths caused by the explosion shocked Northern Ireland and the world; they even shocked many paramilitary activists.

Suddenly the deaths of the Quinn brothers and those of the victims of Omagh assumed a dreadful symmetry: the first had shown the dangers of loyalist violence, while the second illustrated what republicanism could do.

The outcome of the intensive negotiations yesterday has not solved all the problems but once again real progress has been made.

## NORTHERN IRELAND



Loyalist protesters yesterday outside Hillsborough Castle, where an agreement on paramilitary disarmament was outlined Stephen Davison

## 'This deal will split Unionist movement'

BY STEVE BOGGAN

IN THE staunch Unionist heartland of Comber nine miles south-east of Belfast is a grand war memorial to Major General Robert Rollo Gillespie.

"One shot more for the honour of Down," said the town's favourite son as he fell battle at Kalunga in 1814. And yesterday, that stubborn spirit was much in evidence as details of the Hillsborough declaration reached the townfolk.

Puzzlement and confusion were the initial reactions, followed by a sense of wonder that, by their interpretation, the IRA had still not committed to handing over its weapons.

"We've already given them too much," said Sheila Rea, 68, whose father Hugh Bruce was killed by an IRA bomb in 1972. She and her husband, Wilfred Rea, 74, were sitting in the sunshine underneath Gillespie's statue and they were in no mood for compromise.

"They've got their prisoners out and now they are going to get their seats as well," said Mrs Rea. "It's madness. My father was just a commissionaire outside a furniture shop - he was 68 years old - when they blew him up. We still don't know who did it. Now they've let lots of trained killers out of prison and they still have their weapons to do it all again. I can't agree to that."

Mr and Mrs Rea are the sort of people David Trimble must carry with him if the latest deal is to succeed, but there is evidence that they may be prepared to leave him behind. "This is just another promise - seats first, guns later," said Mr Rea. "This will split the entire Unionist Party. I think people will feel betrayed by Trimble."

As the afternoon wore on, others came and sat in the shadow of Gillespie, a veteran of campaigns in Jarrow, Palm Beach and Vellore, and were equally concerned. Sam McIlwraith, 57, who served 25 years in the British Army, was among the more pragmatic. "I am a

strong Trimble supporter but I thought we were duped over the prisoner releases - I thought they would run concurrently with decommissioning, but they haven't," he said. "We in our community have gone far enough but it would be a shame to stop now. I am pleased it's moving forward but the other side needs to offer something as well. For the sake of our children they have to give up their arms."

Others were less happy. Corrina Clarke, 35, a carer, said simply: "They still haven't given up their weapons? Why the hell are we talking to them?"

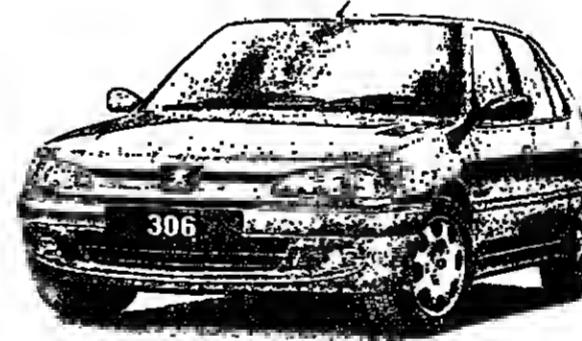
Across town, under the shadow of the high-rise blocks of New Lodge in republican north Belfast, there was more of a mood of reconciliation. Here, the idea of giving up arms would have been anathema a year ago, but now there was an air of resignation.

"I am not surprised the IRA don't want to give up their weapons over Easter, with the marching season coming up," said Noel Morrow, 53. "But the Unionists have been complaining about nothing - the weapons have been silenced for over a year. A lot of what trouble there has been has been caused by them."

Sam McKinney felt the Unionists' demands for decommissioning had been overegged. "That was never a pre-condition - they just said it was," he said. "People here just want it all done now but Trimble has a lot of folk to move along with him and I am not sure he can do it."

As they walked home in the dying sunshine both men said the community was now just hungry for peace. But they equally thought an observer might easily return to Northern Ireland in 30 years and hear the same arguments being aired by a different generation of people.

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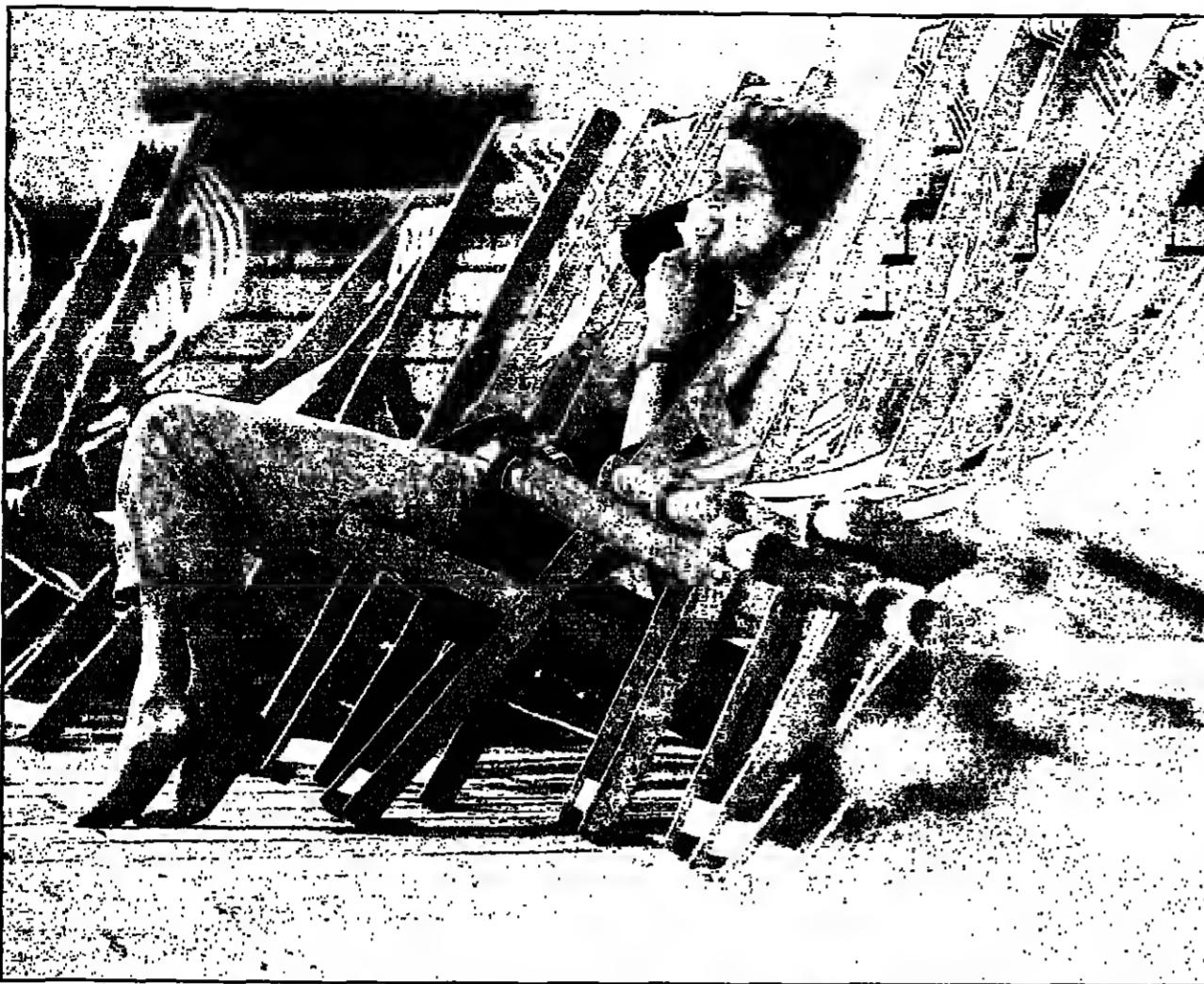
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A sunseeker enjoying an empty promenade at Teignmouth, Devon, yesterday before the Easter rush Marc Hill

## Britain hotter than Athens or Riviera

THOUSANDS OF holidaymakers departed Britain from airports and ferry terminals, leaving behind Mediterranean temperatures that made this year's April Fool's Day one of the warmest in memory.

Although temperatures failed to beat the 1 April record of 22.6C set in Cambridgeshire in 1997, much of central and southern England was hotter than Nice, Athens or Los Angeles. It could get even hotter. Although many areas may be overcast today and tomorrow, weather forecasters said it could reach 22C on Easter Day and Bank Holiday Monday.

Motorists have been warned to expect heavy road congestion throughout the Easter weekend, especially on coastal roads. The AA estimated that 10 million road journeys will be made over the four-day holiday - a 5 per cent increase on last year. The build-up of holiday traffic on motorways had begun by midday yesterday. "People always think they can avoid congestion by leaving earlier but everybody seems to have the same idea," said Michael Johnson of the AA.

By yesterday lunchtime the temperature had reached 18.6C at Heathrow airport. The hot weather, caused by a band of high pressure sweeping up from the Azores, may be interrupted today before returning later in the weekend, weather forecasters suggested. Colin

BY LINUS GREGORIADIS

Donnelly of the Meteorological Office said: "It will become unsettled and overcast in some regions and there could be some light rain, which will spread from the west to the east."

The Association of British Travel Agents (Abta) says more than 800,000 passengers are due to depart from UK airports over the weekend.

Steven Freudmann, Abta's president, said: "With Easter falling early this year, many of us are taking the opportunity to experience a little sunshine overseas or take some time to sample a spring city break."

Staff at Gatwick said they were preparing for 327,000 passengers to pass through during the four-day holiday, with their busiest day expected tomorrow. Favourite destinations from Gatwick are Malaga, Tenerife, Dublin, Orlando, Faro and New York.

Easter Monday is expected to be Heathrow's busiest day, with almost 170,000 passengers. Paris, Amsterdam, Dublin, Edinburgh and New York are the most popular destinations for travellers from the London airport.

Britain's ports were also busy as many holidaymakers headed to the Continent. Dover Harbour Board is expecting more than 260,000 passengers over Easter.

### IN BRIEF

#### Free eye tests for over-60s

SEVEN MILLION people are now eligible for free eye tests after the Government scrapped a £17.50 charge for the over-60s. Eye tests had been free only to children, people on low incomes and those at risk from eye disease. But Age Concern said spectacles should also be free.

#### Nuns exempt from minimum wage

NUNS WILL be exempt from the National Minimum Wage because their work is largely voluntary, the Government said yesterday. Stephen Byers, the Trade and Industry Secretary, has accepted recommendations made by the Low Pay Commission.

#### Robinson cleared on shares

GROFFREY ROBINSON, former paymaster-general, was not required to register a property shareholding, the Standards and Privileges Committee ruled. He produced documents showing he held the shares in trust for children of his father by a second marriage.

#### Seized eggs may be DNA tested

POLICE MAY carry out DNA tests on nearly 1,500 birds' eggs seized in raids to try to match them to feathers from known nesting sites. The eggs were seized in raids in Brixham and Totnes in Devon on Tuesday.

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Sister Superior

RT REV RICHARD HARRIES

War is justified - but only under certain conditions

REVIEW PAGE 4

# Air miles devalued by extra charges

BRITAIN'S FIVE million Air Miles collectors face sharp increases in the amount they must pay to redeem "free" flights.

From next Friday British Airways is introducing additional charges that could add £5 or more to the price of journeys made by members of its frequent-flyer scheme.

Last November BA instituted a move to list passenger service charges (PSCs) as a separate item on air tickets. These fees make up part of the normal commercial charges made by airports, and until now have been included in the ticket price.

The extra charge is being represented on tickets as a new tax, even though it is neither new, nor a tax.

Carriers have used the change as a back-door means to increase fares, in effect mak-

ing passengers pay twice for a single element of the airline's costs.

Initially Air Miles - the BA subsidiary that operates the scheme - said it had no plans to levy the charge on members. But inquiries by *The Independent* have revealed that for bookings made from next Friday, 9 April, collectors will have to pay an extra fee.

The amount varies from one airport to another and may apply either to departing or arriving passengers. In the case of a flight from Aberdeen to Belfast, the charge will add £17.80 in addition to the £10 Air Passenger Duty - a genuine government tax - already payable. On "free" flights from BA's busiest airports, Heathrow and Gatwick, passengers will

pay an extra £7.30 and £4.80 respectively. The company will not say how many Air Miles are in circulation, but there are believed to be several billion.

Because of the increase in the cost of redemption, they have effectively been devalued.

Judith Thorne, group marketing director for Air Miles, said the increase was because the parent company was demanding higher payments for seats on its flights. "We will be charged PSC by British Airways, just as other travel agents are. We therefore need to pass this on to the customer."

Consumer groups reacted angrily to the Air Miles move. Bob Tolliday of the Consumers' Association magazine *Holiday Watch*, said: "It's just a price rise that's under the smoke-screen of an increase in

charges, and another example of BA abusing its dominant position in the marketplace."

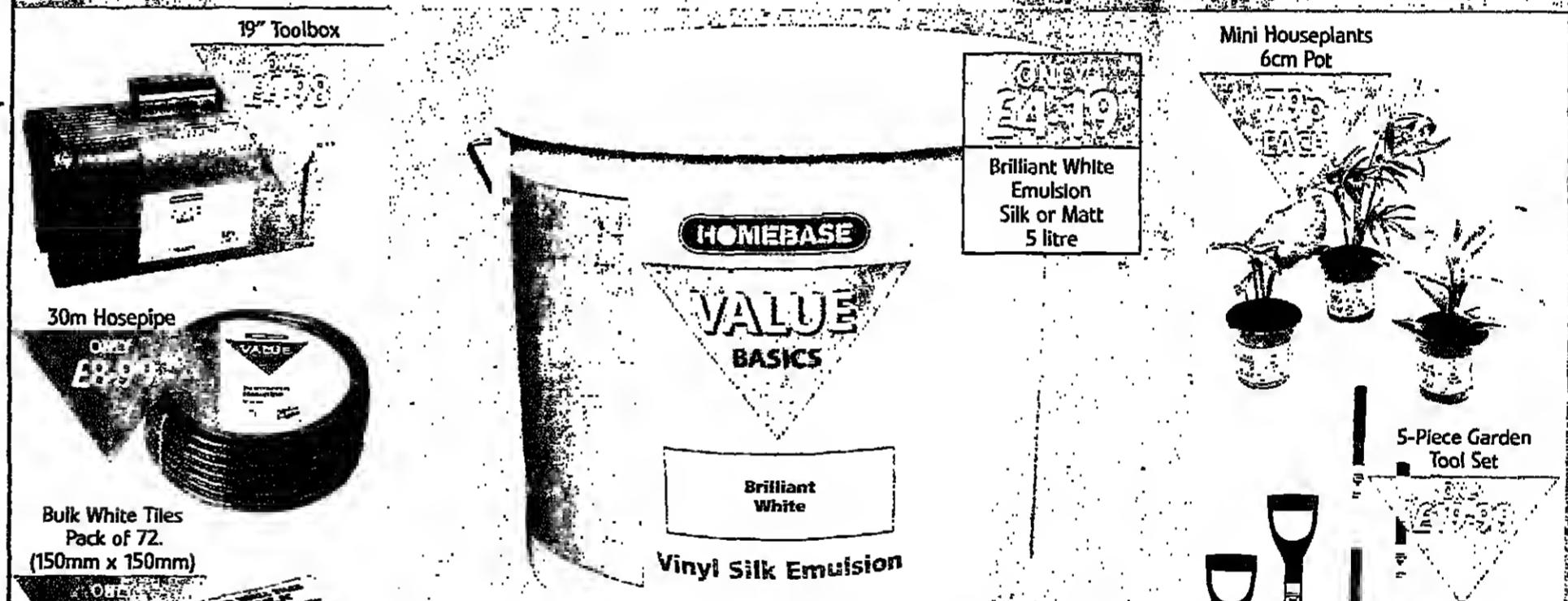
Some of BA's rivals, including Virgin Atlantic and KLM, have already begun adding the charge to frequent-flyer bookings. In the case of a KLM passenger between Edinburgh and London City, this means an extra charge of £13.

The Air Miles move is likely to come under scrutiny from the Office of Fair Trading. The watchdog is already investigating more than 20 complaints from consumers and the travel industry about the addition of PSCs to fares, and has asked airlines not to represent the charge as a tax.

And this week the Association of British Travel Agents began High Court proceedings against BA, Virgin Atlantic and Lufthansa, alleging the use of misleading prices.

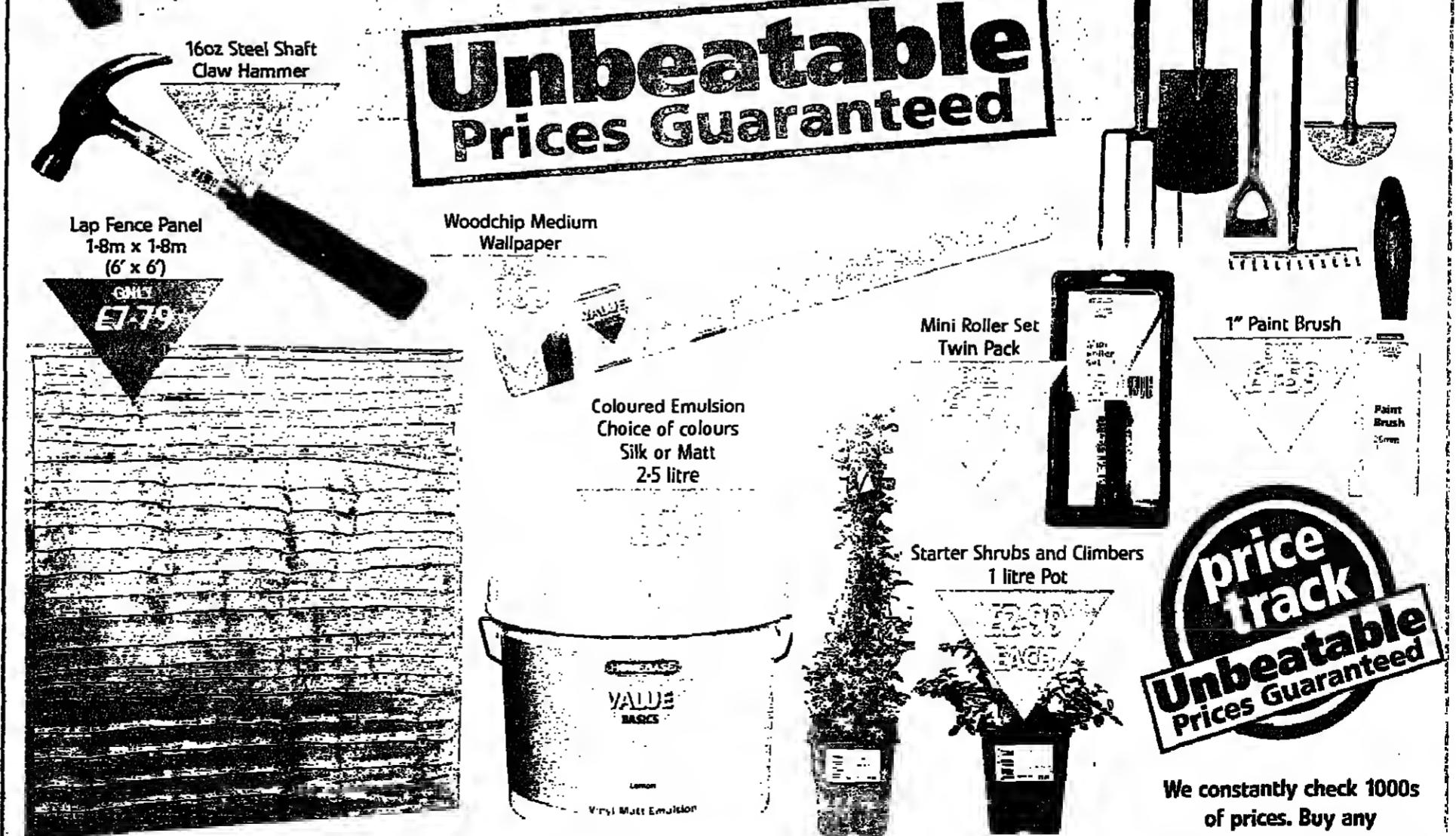
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Nicholas Holtam, vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields at Trafalgar Square, central London, admiring the statue of Christ by Doru Imbroane Marculescu, which was lifted on to the church's portico yesterday. The eight-foot bronze will be on display until 10 May Neville Elder

## Breast cancer delays kill 500 women a year

BY JEREMY LAURANCE  
Health Editor

WOMEN WITH breast cancer who wait longer than three months from first noticing a lump to getting treatment die sooner, a worldwide review of research has found. Prompt treatment could save at least 1 in 20, and possibly 1 in 10 who die after experiencing a longer delay.

The unexpected finding, which appears in *The Lancet*, triggered a dispute before it was published. A second paper in the journal said delays of over three months had no effect on survival; its author said he had been excluded from a press conference called to announce the results of the two studies.

The suggestion that a few

months' delay can reduce survival is controversial because it will increase pressure on hospital breast clinics and put GPs at risk of litigation if they "watch and wait" rather than referring patients with symptoms. It is also counter to medical orthodoxy.

About 30,000 women a year in Britain are diagnosed with breast cancer and a third wait longer than three months for treatment. The delay is partly due to women postponing going to a GP and partly to the wait between referral and a hospital appointment. The total delay could be reduced to less than three months for all women, at least 500 lives could be saved, Imperial Cancer Research Fund experts say.

The importance of speed of treatment is a controversy that has raged for 90 years. Doctors have said a tumour takes years to grow from a single cell to a detectable lump and that a few extra months cannot make a difference to survival. The results of the first systematic review of 100,000 patients in 87 studies from around the world, by Michael Richards and colleagues at St Thomas' Hospital, challenges that assumption.

It comes as the Government delivers its pledge to shorten waiting-times for women with symptoms.

From yesterday a new NHS target requires that all women with suspected breast cancer referred by a GP should be seen

by a specialist within two weeks.

The target is criticised by the authors of the second paper in *The Lancet*, which found delays of more than three months did not affect survival, and that those treated quickest (within a month) died sooner.

Richard Sainsbury and colleagues at the Huddersfield Royal Infirmary, who examined 36,000 cases in the northern and Yorkshire region, conclude that "the drive ... to be seen within 14 days will divert resources from other services. Resources should instead be directed to ensuring that all patients have access to (the best care)."

At a news conference organised by the research fund yesterday, Professor Richards challenged this finding on the basis that women treated quickest had the most serious disease and were therefore most likely to die.

Mr Sainsbury, who was not invited to the news conference, said some studies included in Professor Richards's review were 70 years old. Too great an emphasis on speed of treatment would lead to clinics being overwhelmed and patients getting worse service.

Both experts conceded, however, that the Government is addressing only one aspect of delay - that caused by hospitals - while ignoring that caused by women themselves who fail to consult GPs promptly with symptoms.

From yesterday a new NHS target requires that all women with suspected breast cancer referred by a GP should be seen

### EARLY WARNINGS

The first sign is usually a lump in the breast, but other initial symptoms include changes to the nipple or dimpling of the breast. This list is used by specialists in south-east London:

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- Persistent nodularity (lumpiness) in a woman over 30
- Blood-stained nipple discharge with a lump in a woman of any age
- New appearance of dimpling of the breast (not present from birth)
- New nipple inversion on one side
- Persistent nipple ulceration or eczema
- Persistent infection in the breast (in a woman who is not breast-feeding)

## Cervical tests 'too expensive'

BY JEREMY LAURANCE

since the 1950s but after 1987 the rate of fall trebled. By 1997 the number of deaths was 1,150, down from 1,200 in 1987, suggesting that the screening programme may have saved 800 lives of women aged 25 to 54 in that year. Fifty years ago, cervical cancer claimed 2,500 lives a year.

The authors, writing in the *British Medical Journal*, say the annual cost of the screening programme is £132m, four times the cost of the breast screening programme, which aims to save 1,250 lives a year in the target group of women aged 55 to 69.

"Costs of screening could be reduced substantially with little loss in effectiveness, by screening all women every five years ... and by not continuing to screen women over 50 who have had two or three consecutive normal results."

### CERVICAL SCREENING

for women has cut the incidence of the disease by a third in a decade but it is too expensive to run in its current form, researchers claim.

Despite repeated scandals involving mis-read smears, the national screening service is saving hundreds of lives a year. While women cannot avoid all risk of the disease by attending for a regular smear every three to five years, the figures show that, for all its faults, screening is effective.

Dr Mike Quinn and colleagues from the Office of National Statistics say that the proportion of women being screened rose to 85 per cent in 1998 when a national call and recall system was introduced. Up to that point, although screening had been carried out for 20 years, it had failed to reduce deaths.

Deaths had anyway been falling by 1.5 per cent a year

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IN THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

## From the Boat Race to Wimbledon, the 50 biggest sports events of the summer

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Friedrich Gulda: Known for his genius – and his eccentricity – and is still 'remarkably alive' Karl Schoendorfer

## Pianist fakes death to see obituaries

WHEN LAST Sunday a report from the Austrian Press Agency (APA) announced the unexpected death of Friedrich Gulda, the world of classical music seemed to have lost one of its most talented and eccentric exponents.

Fellow heavyweights of the music world lined up to pay tribute to the internationally renowned pianist, lauded as a genius for his interpretations of Mozart and Bach, and later for his jazz playing, who had died after apparently suffering a heart attack at Zurich airport.

But Gulda, a pianist with a complex life, seemed to have no intention of making it end any more straightforward. Shortly after the news of his demise had

reached newsrooms, the APA sent another message: "Do not use the item 'Austrian Pianist Gulda Dead' – the news agency has retracted this report."

Now the mysterious "death" of Gulda has become a classical "whodunit" – with the finger of blame pointing most firmly at the pianist himself.

For two days after the APA report, the fate of the pianist was shrouded in darkness. He apparently disappeared, and members of his family would not answer the phone. A journalist reported seeing Gulda at Zurich airport looking unwell.

Then, two days ago, a Geneva concert agent contacted the

APA, saying he had seen the pianist a day earlier and that he had seemed "remarkably alive". But sensationally, he also alleged he had been approached by Gulda and asked to participate in the hoax by filling an obituary. He declined.

Many now believe that Gulda, who is renowned as a pianist of genius, an eccentric and a musical anarchist, the once played a television duet with his girlfriend in the nude), was responsible for the fax announcing his death. The fax was sent from Zurich airport at a time when the pianist was there. Gulda is "unavailable" for comment, so theories for the hoaxed death abound.

In a recent interview, Gulda had forbidden any obituaries to be written about him, saying: "People have thrown so much muck at me while I am alive, I do not want them to chuck it into my grave as well." Some believe he wanted to test how seriously this "injunction" was taken by journalists.

It may also have been his idea of a practical joke. "There are varying opinions about the question what Mr Gulda finds funny," an APA journalist said. But there is another possible reason for this hoax: on Monday, the pianist is scheduled to play Mozart at a rare classical appearance in Salzburg. The title of this concert is "Resurrection Party". It is now fully booked.

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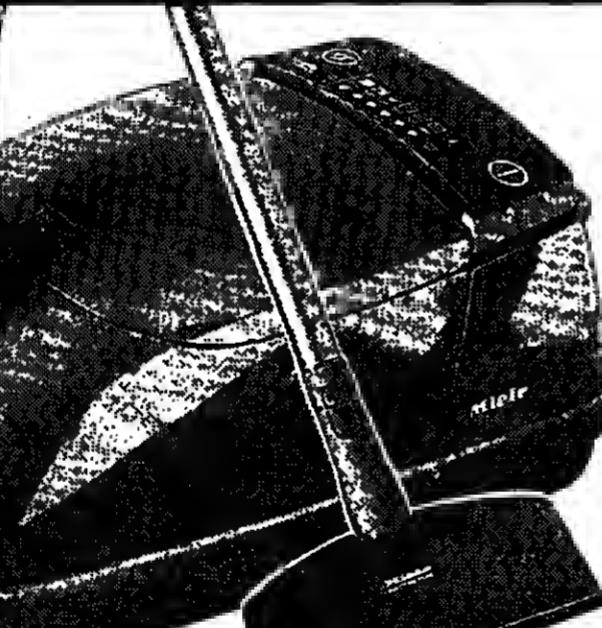
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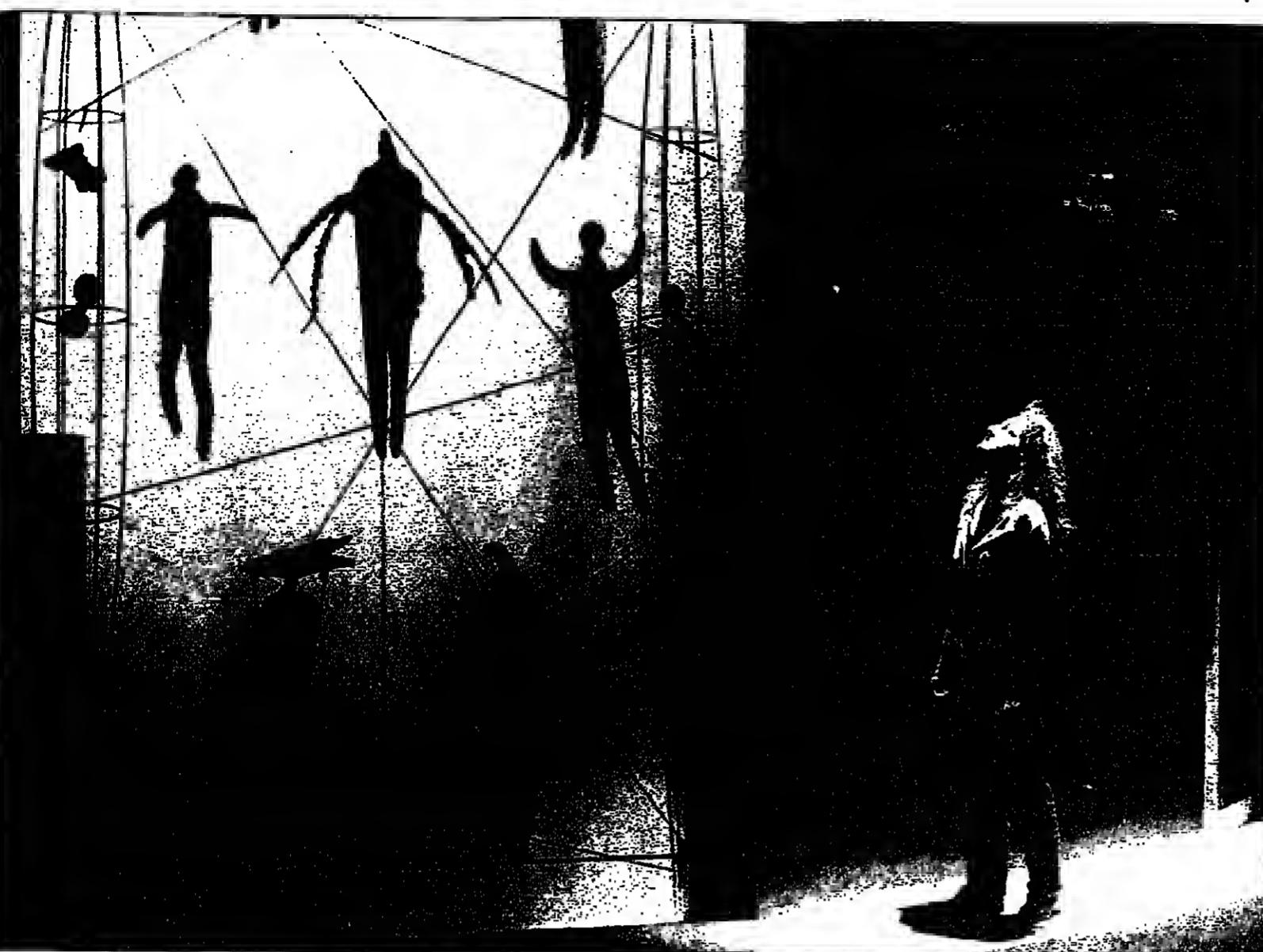
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Ex-miners will be employed as security guards and guides at The Earth Centre, which opens today at a converted colliery in Doncaster

## Straw sex and drug policies 'ignored'

BY IAN BURRELL  
Home Affairs Correspondent

tempo to curb the activities of sex offenders by making them subject to court orders are proving unsuccessful. Only one Sex Offender Order has so far been imposed, on the Manchester rapist Michael Gordon, 35. He was released last year after being sentenced to 12 years in 1988 for raping two students.

The order places restrictions on his movements, breaches of which could result in a five-year jail sentence.

Mr Fletcher said the idea that sex offenders spent "all day hanging around playgrounds" was inaccurate. "Orders restricting their movements are very limited. What is needed is intensive supervision and surveillance and a requirement to undertake a sex offender treatment programme."

Nearly six months after the introduction of the Crime and Disorder Act, the courts have issued only 30 of the new drug treatment and testing orders.

About 60 of the 120 drug-related offenders who have been offered the programme have refused to take part.

Harry Fletcher, of the association, said: "They say that having to report every day for counselling and being tested several times a week was too tough. They would rather go to prison and stay on the drugs."

The programme, which costs £6,000 per head, was introduced last September in three pilot areas: Gloucestershire, Merseyside and Croydon. Offenders are required to have intensive therapy five days a week and are subjected to drug-testing between one and three times a week.

The association has written to the Home Office minister George Howarth to complain about the "degrading" conditions in which testing takes place. Lone female officers are having to watch over male offenders while they produce a urine sample.

Probation officers also believe the Home Office's at-

## Restored Poussin goes on show

BY MARIA BRESLIN

experts at the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool.

The painting was attributed as an early Poussin after restoration work at the award-winning Conservation Centre in Liverpool where the canvas was cleaned and X-rayed.

Now the work, painted in 1624 when Poussin was a struggling young artist working in Rome, is being hailed as a "major find" by European art

## Sushi boom makes work for ex-miners

SOME FORMER miners in the Midlands facing a jobless future after their pit closed have turned their hands to making sushi. The Japanese delicacy is increasingly fashionable in the UK and a factory has opened on the site of a disused colliery near Worksop.

There, ex-miners many unemployed for years, are being trained to prepare the intricate raw fish and seaweed dishes. Mark Orwin, who lost his job at the Mantor colliery, admits he had never heard of sushi before he started work at Solway Foods is happy to have a job. "I used to work a lot of machinery down the pit, although it is obviously different stuff here, smaller of course, but you can get on with it."

Sally Mitchell, the factory

manager, said the miners had proved adaptable. "We started them off on sandwiches to get them used to it," she said. The men were given samples to take home and, after initial scepticism, it proved surprisingly popular. The company is hoping to expand over the next year to employ 400 people.

Mantor is one of several pits that have been reborn. In Barnsley, the former Dodworth colliery is now a Japanese ball bearing factory. Miners in Mansfield are now employed making car seats for Toyota. Cadeby and Denaby mines in Doncaster, which closed about 10 years ago with the loss of 10,000 jobs, have been converted into The Earth Centre,

a series of galleries dedicated to environmental issues. The centre opens today and employs some former miners as security guards and guides.

But Joan Dixon, of the Coalfields Communities Campaign, said that although companies were claiming to employ former miners, there was a long way to go to find new jobs for all 250,000 who lost their jobs when the pits closed.

"We are campaigning for jobs and to regenerate the coalfields, and if there are any companies setting up new factories then obviously we would rather they came to these areas, but there are still thousands of them who are unemployed," she said.

"They are very hard-working and they want to work."

### ENTERPRISES THAT ROSE FROM THE DEAD

**Phileas Fogg**, which makes tortilla chips, was set up in 1993 following the closure of the steelworks at Consett, Co. Durham.

**Rosalle Medical Ltd** employs 200 people and was established in 1996 at

Cwm Cynon business park on the site of the former Navigation colliery.

**Aiwa**, a Japanese company making videos, employs 970 people in the Crumlin area. It was formerly the North Colwyn Colliery.

**Ventura** has opened a

£15m call centre on the site of the former Manvers Main colliery, Rotherham, South Yorkshire.

The former **Snibstone Colliery** in Coalville, Leicestershire, is now a discovery park. Ex-miners lead tours of the old pit.

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# Combat lessons for infant teachers

TEACHERS OF children as young as three are being taught restraint techniques by experts from a top-security hospital to control violent and disruptive pupils.

The Association of Teachers and Lecturers, meeting in Harrogate yesterday, called for all staff to be given the specialist training as it emerged that teams from Ashworth special hospital on Merseyside had been called in to train

BY BEN RUSSELL  
Education Correspondent

staff in several schools and even nurseries.

The teachers demanded help in coping with the increasing number of children with emotional and behavioural difficulties being educated in mainstream schools.

Delegates warned that plans to educate more "special needs" children in mainstream

classes could lead "to the sort of situations that arose from the well-intentioned but ill-fated care in the community".

Expulsions, even those in primary schools, have increased sharply in recent years and teachers repeatedly complain that they are being required to deal with disruptive and even violent young people.

John Williamson, a teacher at Kigarth school in Birkenhead, Liverpool, said he had

been through a three-day course by Ashworth specialists and said the same course was becoming popular among other schools. The training covers safe ways of restraining violent youngsters, such as arm grips, and ways of leading children away from confrontation or potentially harmful situations.

The sessions, based on techniques developed to deal with some of Britain's most dangerous criminals, are also designed

to defuse confrontations and help teachers to avoid conflict by using body language and eye contact. Mr Williamson, whose school caters for boys aged between 11 and 16 with emotional and behavioural difficulties, said he used the specialist techniques daily, and said it was essential that all teachers had similar training.

"It may be only once a month, or once in a career that you come across this sort of sit-

uation, but it can terminate your career if you do not know how to cope with it."

"Incidents of violence have been recorded by children of infant age. We have not yet seen the tip of the iceberg but with affection. It was unusual but now it is becoming a fact that children of infant age can and do react violently."

Guidelines showing teachers how to use "reasonable force" to restrain unruly pupils were

published last year to increase protection for staff against possible prosecution if they intervened in violent or dangerous incidents. Under the rules, teachers can lead children out of fights, block their path or guide them with a hand on their back, but they cannot use arm locks or push children to the ground.

Mrs Williamson said the Government had done too little to help teachers. "If these children

with emotional and behavioural difficulties are to remain in mainstream schools, training is a priority because it gives professional confidence."

Richard Neale, a member of the union's national executive, said: "Training is important for all staff and not just in special educational needs schools. Additional funding is essential. We are doing our best and we will continue to do our best but we need support and funding."

## UK children are among world's best behaved

IN THE international naughty league, children from Puerto Rico and the United States are the worst behaved, while those from Sweden are angelic in comparison. British children show the same level of bad behaviour as the Germans and the Dutch, according to a study.

Experts believe genetic differences between cultures, the stability of family life, levels of education, wealth and alternative child-rearing practices contribute to differences in levels of bad behaviour in children.

The survey, which looked at child-behavioural reports of

BY CHERRY NORTON  
Social Affairs Correspondent

more than 13,500 children aged 6 to 17 in 12 cultures, found children in the US and Puerto Rico (a US dependent territory) displayed the most aggressive and delinquent behaviour, followed by Israel and Jamaica. Those children were also more likely to be anxious and depressed. Swedish children were the least likely to be violent and overall displayed the fewest social behavioural problems.

The research, published in this month's *American Journal of Psychiatry*, showed that while boys were more likely to be aggressive or display delinquent behaviour, girls worldwide were more likely to be anxious or depressed and have problems sleeping.

"The differences in children's behaviour are a result of both environmental and genetic factors," said Alfons Crijnen, a child and adolescent psychiatrist at Erasmus University, Rotterdam, who wrote the study.

"Overall, children who are well-educated are less likely to have behavioural problems.



Children reciting the Pledge of Allegiance at a school in Dallas. But the study of child behaviour says Americans are overly aggressive

British children have the same level of behaviour as the Dutch and the Germans because they have a similar quality of education and their parents have the same attitudes towards child-rearing."

Dr Crijnen believes the findings will allow more study of how genetics influences behav-

iour. Child-rearing methods were also seen to have a big influence on behaviour.

Edward Melhuish, a professor of human development at Cardiff University, said that Sweden's anti-smacking policy, which was introduced more than 20 years ago, and which discourages parents from

smacking their children, has had a direct effect on the low level of aggression in Swedish children.

"If the form of parental discipline involves violence then the children are more also more likely to use violence. Children who grow up in a home or neighbourhood envi-

ronment where violence is acceptable tend to be more aggressive."

The findings of the research showed that children in the younger age groups had a greater tendency to be aggressive than those in their teens. In contrast, older children aged 15 to 17 were more

likely to become withdrawn and have problems sleeping.

The greatest difference between the sexes was in the Netherlands.

Dutch adolescent boys aged 15 to 17 years were more aggressive and girls less aggressive than the gender trend in other countries.

## Docks scheme £193m in red

BY PAUL WAUGH  
Political Correspondent

UPGRADING BRITAIN'S Royal Dockyards is £193m overspent and up to six years behind schedule, a damning Commons report has found.

The all-party Public Accounts Committee concluded that poor Ministry of Defence management had led to major delays to the refitting projects for nuclear submarines at Rosyth and Devonport.

The delays were so serious they risked jeopardising the operational capability of the Royal Navy's most expensive fighting machines.

In the report published yesterday, MPs also found that taxpayers had lost a further £20m because the last Tory government sold off the yards cheaply. There was no competition for the privatisation. MPs found, with contractors Babcock Rosyth Defence and Devonport Management the only bidders for each site.

MPs described the overspend on refurbishment as "wholly unacceptable". Even though the yards are privately owned, the MoD is paying to upgrade their facilities to ensure that nuclear submarines can be adequately refitted. But overspending had been "massive", totalling £193m, equivalent to a rise of 57 per cent on the original estimate.

### WHO'S BAD?

1. Puerto Rico
2. United States
- =3. Israel
- =3. Jamaica
5. Thailand
6. Australia
7. The Netherlands
8. Britain
9. Germany
10. Sweden

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# Car now as slow as train and bus

MOTORISTS WHO try to beat the bus by driving into central London are wasting their time, according to official figures published yesterday.

The journey time into the city centre by car is as slow as by public transport for the first time, a government survey found. The study by the De-

partment for the Environment, Transport and the Regions found an average nine-mile journey between outer and central London took both the car and public transport 64 minutes.

Car journey times rose 7 per cent from the 60 minutes recorded in 1995, while public transport trips using a mixture of bus, train and tube took 2 per cent longer; up from 63 minutes.

Glenda Jackson, a Trans-

port minister, said: "This shows yet again that traffic congestion is choking London streets and making journeys longer for everyone, particularly for car drivers. Using public transport means less congestion, less pollution and less wasted time."

However, the car was much quicker for journeys within suburban London - at 42 minutes compared with 73 by bus or train. The survey also found the average journey time by bicycle for eight-mile trips was 43 minutes, compared with 36 minutes by car. The survey was done at varying times to give an accurate result.

The report, *Journey Times Survey 1998 - Central and Outer London*, found that growing levels of congestion over the past three years had been a major cause for slowing down car journeys. Other reasons included motorists choosing longer and more varied routes to avoid traffic jams and a 13 per cent rise - to £10.50 - in the cost of four hours' parking, prompting motorists to take time seeking cheap parking.

The AA said motorists preferred their cars and would not be tempted out of them until

public transport was improved. Paul Watters, head of road and transport policy at the AA, said: "Even though journey times may be the same, the people that are in their cars argue that they are much happier being in the car rather than being in the cold and wet with other people."

"Our surveys of London members show they are strong supporters of the car for rea-

sons of personal security and safety. They may use public transport but they don't like it." The Confederation of Passenger Transport said the trend was moving in the right direction and would be helped by government policies such as congestion charging and workplace parking charges. "We have to get the point where the bus beats the car. As long as they are level, the average dri-

ver will prefer their car," a spokesman said.

Researchers carried out 80 trips between central and outer London in both directions and 80 long journeys through the outer suburbs.

They included time taken to find parking spaces and, for public transport users, time spent walking to the station or bus stop and waiting for the service to arrive.

## Partnerships 'are future of railways'

BY PHILIP THORNTON

THE MAN appointed by the Government to get the trains to run on time criticised the privatisation of the railways yesterday, saying it had left a "fragmented" network.

Sir Alastair Morton, speaking on his first day as chairman of the Strategic Rail Authority (SRA), said his first priority was

to bring investment back to the railways. "One of the problems is lack of investment and then there's the problem that privatisation was achieved through fragmentation. We have to take that fragmentation and turn it into public-private

sector partnerships," he said. Sir Alastair, 61, was co-chairman of Eurotunnel and masterminded the creation of the £10bn Channel Tunnel. His new role is equally challenging as the latest official figures showed two-thirds of the rail network suffered falling punctuality last year, with one in five

trains running late on the worst route.

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, who appointed Sir Alastair, said: "This is a crucial new position and we want to see this new body work for the interests of the passenger. We have to make sure we have a better rail system."

Sir Alastair said: "We have in John Prescott someone with a vision and a plan for how to get there. My job is to turn that into something concrete. It won't be done overnight but I'm confident that it will be done."

The SRA will exist in shadow form until the Government gives it statutory backing through a Bill.

PA

# Starr's Lewinsky inquiry cost \$6m

AMERICANS MAY now be looking on their President as commander-in-chief rather than entertainer-in-chief, but they have been presented with two vivid flashbacks to "that woman".

From the General Accounting Office, which audits public spending, came preliminary estimates that the independent counsel, Kenneth Starr, spent more than \$6m investigating the Monica Lewinsky scandal, bringing his total spending over the four and a half years of the investigation of the President to more than \$40m - a record for any independent counsel investigation.

Then from President Clinton himself came new evidence of



Bill Clinton: His bitterness against his accusers

that combination of defiance and fun that made him so difficult for Mr Starr to incriminate. In his first one-to-one interview since his acquittal by the Senate, Mr Clinton insisted that he did not regard the impeachment vote against him in the House of Representatives as a "badge of shame" and harboured no bitterness towards his accusers.

He also stated that, despite rumours of separation, he and his wife, Hillary, intend to stay together and that if she decided to run for the Senate he would be at her side.

Asked by Dan Rather, the doyen of US television presenters, how he felt about becoming only the second pres-



The Reverend Al Sharpton (left) escorting the parents of police shooting victim Amadou Diallo towards the state Supreme Court in the Bronx, New York. Four white police officers who killed Mr Diallo, an unarmed black man, in a fusillade of 41 bullets have been indicted on second-degree murder charges Lynsey Addario/AP

## E-mail rogue virus is traced to Florida

CYBERSPACE DETECTIVES

BY ANDREW GUMBEL

In Los Angeles

trying to track the source of the Melissa virus, which overloaded tens of thousands of computers with junk e-mail earlier in the week, have narrowed their search to an Internet service provider in Orlando, Florida, many of whose users spend their time collecting, detecting and creating computer viruses.

"We understand Melissa came from a client using our service," Ron Spohn, projects

manager for the provider Access Orlando, told Reuters. "But we don't really control the content. The client told us he was taking down the web page."

The FBI, relying heavily on the research of amateur computer sleuths, has been racing to find Melissa's creator since the virus first appeared last Friday and caused several company e-mail systems to crash as

it automatically created 50 new messages for every one opened. The mailings, which contained the words "Important message from..." in their title, included an attachment listing pornographic Internet sites.

Two computer experts, the head of a software company in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and a doctoral student in Sweden, independently traced

Melissa to a user calling himself VicodinES after the name

virus spread through the use of a "macro", an electronic means of performing complex tasks at the touch of a button which in this case meant replicating rogue e-mail messages.

The operator of SourceofKaos, Roger Sibert, has said he would do whatever he could to prevent the further spread of Melissa but refused to release VicodinES's e-mail address unless he receives a court order.

Melissa itself has largely been eradicated.

## Nanny murder children to fly back to UK

TWO BRITISH children have been taken into state custody in the United States after their father was charged with the murder of their nanny.

Their mother, from Wiltshire, was last night arranging for the children to fly to England from Connecticut, where they lived with their father, David Taylor. Mr Taylor, 43, a British engineer, is in custody for the first-degree murder of Milena Pitkova, 22, from Slovakia. Ms Pitkova was killed on Tuesday by several blows to the head. There were also signs that she had been strangled.

Mr Taylor began a relationship with Ms Pitkova after divorcing his wife of 15 years, Susan Lemon. Ms Lemon, who now lives in Chippewa, was too distraught to talk about the murder but her partner, David Hollins, said the children, Adam, 14, and Hannah, 11, were being cared for by US social services and would be returning to England soon. "We spent all yesterday contacting the necessary people and making plans. The children are safe and will return home as soon as possible," he said.

Police in the Long Island Sound town of Madison, where Mr Taylor lived with the children and Ms Pitkova, said they were phoned early on Tuesday by a man who said he had just killed someone. Mr Taylor was subsequently arrested. Bail has been set at \$100,000.

Local newspaper reports said that Mr Taylor struck Ms Pitkova during an argument, after she wanted to end the relationship. The couple had been living in the US for the past three years.



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جدة ١٥٠

# Indian babies sold to West for adoption

BY JASON BURKE

THE DETACHED house in a rich suburb of the steamy south-eastern Indian city of Hyderabad appeared anything but extraordinary. But, if the police are correct, the neat home on East Maradipally street is the headquarters of a gang that has made thousands of pounds buying children from the poor and selling them in the West for adoption.

In the past five days, several people allegedly involved in the racket have been arrested. The head of the gang, according to police sources, is Sankala-Peter Subbaiah, who ran the Good Samaritan Evangelical and Social Welfare Association, the adoption charity under investigation.

Subbaiah was arrested in a city hotel on Sunday, having evaded police when they raided the suburban house late last week.

Upstairs in the house, police found a dozen nurses tending 56 babies, some only a month old, and all under a year in age. Fifty-two were girls.

In a statement in the Andhra Pradesh state assembly, Madhava Reddy, the home minister, said early investigations had revealed Subbaiah's association was running a sophisticated operation selling the babies for adoption to childless couples in the West. The babies were bought from poor local people by hired go-betweens known as "social workers".

Mr Reddy said the "social

process of buying a baby in a village in the rural district of Nalgonda, high on a wooded plateau 60 miles east of Hyderabad.

He claimed that Subbaiah and his accomplices then paid the go-betweens a commission of Rs20,000 (£300) per child, lodged them in the crèche pending the completion of emigration and adoption formalities and then finally sold them overseas at prices ranging from \$2,000 to \$3,000 (£1,200 to £800).

The number of children sent overseas by the Good Samaritan Evangelical and Social Welfare Association is unknown. Police say, however, that records they have seized show Subbaiah had arranged for the overseas adoption of 32 children since January 1998 and that his close colleague, Sangita Rao, had dispatched a further nine children in the past six months.

Subbaiah, 49, denies all of the charges against him and says he is the victim of a politically motivated smear.

He claims he is funded by a variety of Western charities, including Oxfam. He said Oxfam gave him Rs800,000 (£13,000) between 1997-98 to fund childcare programmes.

So far, there is no evidence that any have received Britain.

According to police, the racket was discovered after a woman was arrested in the

process of buying a baby in a village in the rural district of Nalgonda, high on a wooded plateau 60 miles east of Hyderabad.

Through that suspect, they traced Margaret Sanjogitha – a key associate of Subbaiah now under arrest – who led them to the crèche in the East Maradipally street house.

Efforts are also under way to trace the parents of the 56 babies found in the police raids. Most of the children come from families of "untouchables" – those at the bottom of India's caste hierarchy – living in poverty in the villages surrounding Hyderabad.

There have been other reports in recent months of parents in India who are so poor they are prepared to sell their children. In the poor state of Bihar, agricultural workers were recently said to be selling their children to local Buddhist monks who used them as domestic servants.

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## Killer of 52 gets death sentence

BY PHIL REEVES  
in Moscow

A SERIAL killer who murdered 52 men, women and children was sentenced to death yesterday, ending a harrowing five-month trial.

Anatoly Onoprienko, 39, a shy and quietly spoken ex-sailor who was nicknamed "the Terminator", greeted the sentence impassively from the iron cage in which he was held. He claims to be unafraid of death: "I've been close to death so many times that it's even interesting for me now to venture into the afterworld," he said in a recent interview.

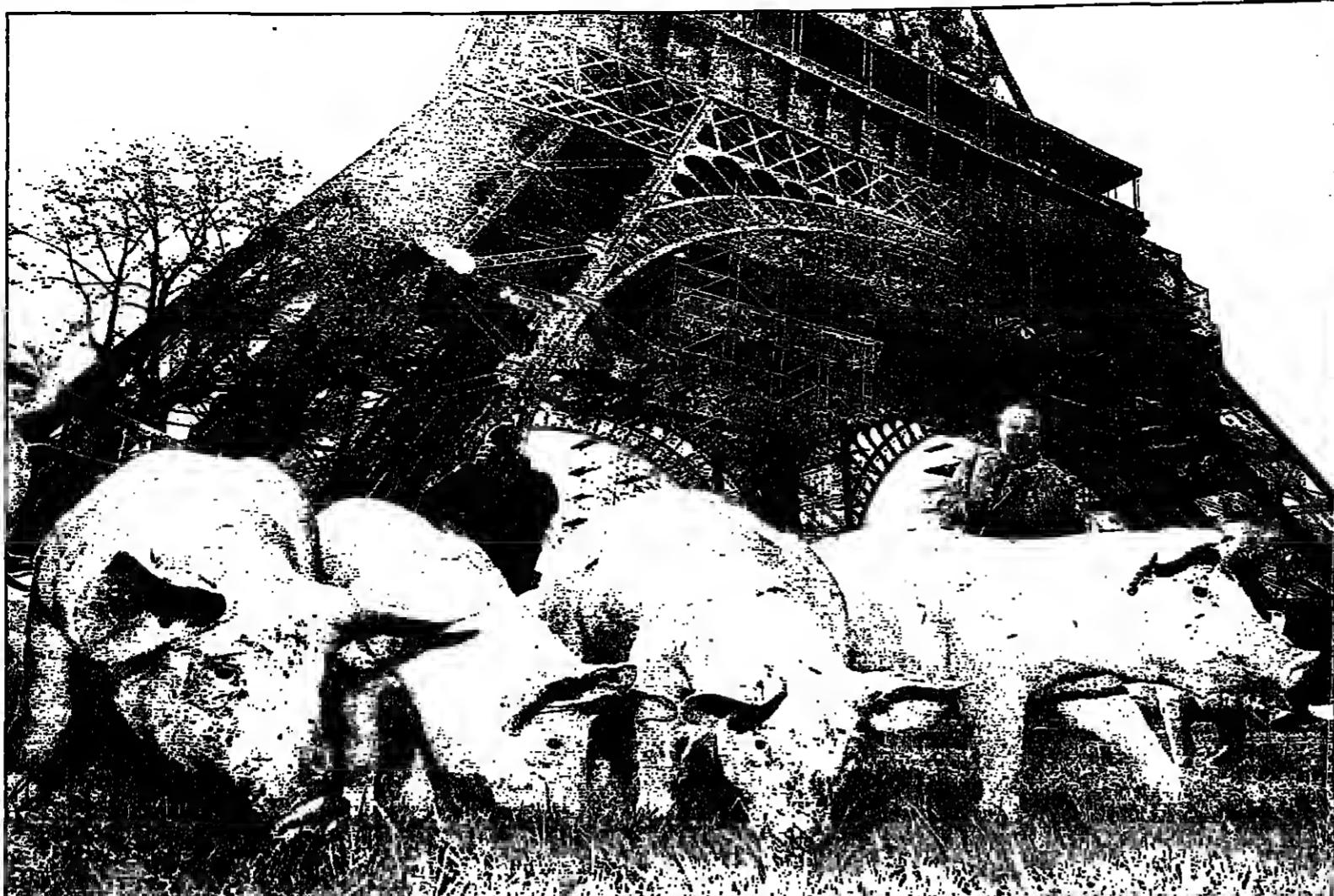
Whether he will now be executed is unclear, as Ukraine has imposed a moratorium on capital punishment, and is committed to scrapping it. To go ahead with the sentence - a bullet in the back of the head is the Ukrainian method - would require a special parliamentary vote.

Onoprienko killed 43 people in less than six months, terrorising rural Ukraine. Travelling by train, he used a sawn-off rifle, knives and axes to slaughter whole families, setting fire to their homes and bludgeoning to death passers-by. Among his victims were 10 children.

The terror ended when he was arrested in Yavoriv, a small town in western Ukraine, on Easter Day 1996, after a hunt that involved 2,000 police, thousands of national guards and more than 3,000 troops, some with armoured vehicles.

He clearly perplexed investigators. "On the one hand, he is a completely normal, intelligent and eloquent, obviously educated, man who thinks before he says anything," said one, shortly after his capture.

"But when he talks about the reasons for the killings, he completely loses his resemblance to a rational person."



Piglets grazing in the shadow of the Eiffel Tower yesterday. French farmers let loose dozens of the animals in a demonstration designed to draw attention to the slump in pork prices over the past year, which has forced many pork producers out of business Philippe Wojazer/Reuters

## French girls smoke more than boys

BY JOHN LICHFIELD  
in Paris

ground or outside. "It's hard enough to stop them in the classrooms," said the deputy head of a *lycée* in the eastern suburbs of Paris. "If we tried to enforce the rule outside, we would have a riot on our hands."

A similar trend has been seen in most European countries, including Britain, but the tendency seems to be especially pronounced in France.

Sociologists and health workers say it seems to be

part of a new spirit of independence and willingness to challenge authority on the part of young French women.

The attraction to tobacco is surprising and depressing, given the publicity on the dangers of smoking and the apparent obsession of young women with their health and appearance.

Lucette Barthelemy, head of a health education college in Lorraine, says this paradox is rooted in the teenage psyche. "All our advice is based on health considerations. Don't

drink, don't smoke, don't take drugs ... But adolescents look at things differently and they hate to be told what not to do. They don't want to be in good health so much as to feel good about themselves," she said.

Other health experts say the trend to smoking among young women is also linked to the fact that French girls are less interested in sport than boys.

Among both boys and girls, smoking is concentrated more densely among those who play sport.

Smoking is most common

among teenage girls in the poorer suburbs, where it is almost universal. But it is also increasingly popular among wealthier teenagers.

"We are facing an explosion of smoking-related illnesses in years to come," said Giles Bruckner, vice-president of the High Committee on Public Health. "Women are more at risk from smoking than men."

He said this was obviously so during pregnancy but there was also evidence of adverse effects from combining nicotine and the contraceptive pill!

## Victims of Nazis in mass law suit

BY IMRE KARACS  
in Berlin

courts in the US where class action suits are allowed. Their cause received a boost in San Francisco, where survivors, Jewish groups and Gray Davis, the Governor of California, joined forces in a suit against six major firms. The companies are Lufthansa, Deutsche Bank, Dresdner Bank and the conglomerate Vlak, as well as the American firms General Motors and Ford, which had operations in Germany during the Second World War.

The

21,826 concentration camp survivors are the latest group from eastern Europe who have yet to receive compensation on the scale given to six major firms. The companies are Lufthansa, Deutsche Bank, Dresdner Bank and the conglomerate Vlak, as well as the American firms General Motors and Ford, which had operations in Germany during the Second World War.

Because Germany does not recognise class action suits, each survivor must petition individually. They are demanding DM1,800 (£629) for every month spent in a concentration camp, and further payments for the physical suffering endured. Some spent only a few months in camps, others up to four years. The total claim amounts to nearly DM2bn.

"We are calling upon the judiciary to take an initiative and do whatever is possible under the law," said their lawyer, Dieter Wissgott, as he handed over all the documents to the court in Bonn, Germany. "Banks paid out more than DM100bn to victims of Nazism, but many living in eastern Europe were given nothing, and their legal situation is bazy.

Even more complex is the plight of hundreds of thousands of people from the occupied countries who were kept in conditions of slavery by German firms. Attempts to extract payment under German law have faltered, so survivors are switching their attacks to

brothers in property

STOCK MARKET

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## Launched into literary heaven

EUROPEAN TIMES

MADRID



Jose Saramago and Gabriel Garcia Marquez Reuters

plain bonkers have their say. A thin man with grey locks, his feet crunched up on his chair, who had been sketching on an envelope throughout, asks an incomprehensible question about technique. The platform responds with the grave tolerance that Spaniards accord to genuine eccentricities.

One recent lit-fest promised to blow up into an intercontinental scandal. The Nobel prizewinners Jose Saramago and Gabriel Garcia Marquez introduce a three-day celebration of Ibero-American writing. The baroque Casa de America was packed to the frescos. A flurry on the top table. Garcia Marquez won't speak, never promised to, you'll have to wait for the closing session. Uproar, chanting: "We want Gabo."

Front-page headlines next morning. The day arrives. Gabo, correcting his notes to the last moment, speaks. But he's not making a speech, he's reading a story: a woman makes her annual visit to a muddy, sleazy Caribbean island to lay flowers on her mother's grave, and has a little amorous adventure.

The audience is entranced, magically lifted. Ah, there's no finer spectacle than the launch of a good book.

ELIZABETH NASH

I'VE BECOME addicted to the book launch. It's an art form, where the people of Madrid display their best qualities: their flash metropolitan verve and their provincial intimacy, their love for grand ideas and their fluent informality.

The purpose seems not primarily to sell the book. Single copies or show are whisked away as you disperse. Neither is it necessarily a chance for authors to read from their oeuvre.

What, then, is the point? Well, venue is crucial. It signals, broadly, whether you are with the establishment or against it. The author invites some famous friends to praise him or her in off-the-cuff remarks that combine the cringing chumminess of a best man's speech with the wacky erudition of an Oxbridge tutor. You get a rambling, frequently hilarious illumination of something you perhaps thought you knew about.

My local bookstore offers glasses of fizz to anyone wandering in for Sunday papers before lunchtime. It works every time. A few slurps and I'm lingering over the fat coffee-table volumes celebrating the 400th anniversary of the artist Velazquez. Jostled by crowds, I realise I'm in the midst of an eloquent reminiscence.

I tear myself from the illustrious art books, and later telephone a publisher to request a review copy of a more modest work. "Certainly, and do come to the presentation." I arrive late and it's packed, as always. Three former directors of the Prado museum are engaged in a lively discussion of whether Velazquez's portrait of Vulcan and Bucephalus among mortal blacksmiths and drunkards meant he was mocking the gods, or painting real people for the first time in European art.

The three scholars could have been having a fireside chat, so unselfconscious were they. I spotted an empty chair at the front and plonked myself down. "It's occupied," hissed a miserable old git next to me. "There's no one here, I hissed back. "Ocupado, ocupado," he insisted. "If anyone comes I'll move," I rasped, scribbling in my notebook just metres from the nostrils of these eminent historians, who were pondering whether the master's work marked a revolutionary rupture, or was merely innovative.

Discussion opened to the floor. This is a precious moment, when the inarticulate, the starstruck and those just

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Deputy Business & City Editor, Michael Harrison  
News desk: 0171-293 2636 Fax: 0171-293 2098

## BUSINESS

## BRIEFING

## Rouble falls to three-year low

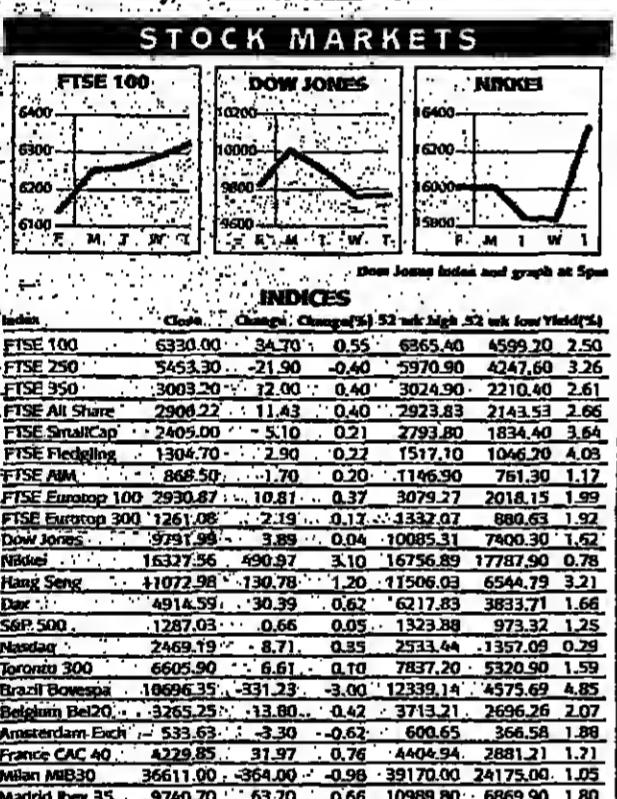
THE RUSSIAN rouble fell to a three-year low of 24.29 to the dollar in official trade yesterday as the central bank chairman Viktor Geraschenko revealed that foreign currency reserves had fallen by nearly \$1bn in March to stand at around \$10.6bn. Gold is thought to account for about \$5bn of that sum. Following Monday's framework deal with the IMF, Russia wants any new IMF loans to be transferred directly to central bank reserves. Depletion of the reserves is raising fears that the rouble will fall sharply or that Russia might default on its debt.

## RMC confirms Scancem talks

RMC, the building materials group, yesterday confirmed that it had held informal talks on the takeover of Scancem, the Scandinavian construction giant. However, the UK company said that it had not decided whether to take an offer for all or parts of Scancem, which is being sold by its two owners, the Swedish construction group Skanska and the Norwegian conglomerate Aker. Initial offers for Scancem, which owns Castle Cement, the UK's second-largest cement maker, are set to be tabled over the weekend, with the Irish group CRH and the French group Lafarge seen as likely bidders.

## Barclay brothers in property move

THE SECRETIVE Barclay brothers are to spend £50m to back a property venture owned by Moorfield Estates, a small developer run by two former City analysts. The millionaire siblings are understood to be close to buying a large stake in a company set up by Moorfield to manage £392m worth of office, retail and industrial properties bought from the insurer Royal & SunAlliance last month. Moorfield, run by the former analysts Marc Gilbrand and Graham Stanley, declined to comment.



## Share prices catch holiday spirit as economy perks up

FRESH SIGNS that the economy is improving after a sluggish winter brought the holiday spirit to share prices yesterday. The FTSE 100 index surged to a new record of 6,399.1 during the day, although it ended up just 34.7 points at 6,330.

There was also an upbeat start on Wall Street, with the Dow Jones index up 54 points higher at 9,840 during morning trading. It too fell back later.

New surveys suggested high street sales had picked up in March, while the decline in manufacturing output was easing. Indeed, export orders rose during the month for the first time since October 1997. Even better, analysts concluded that the survey evidence was not strong enough to prevent the Bank of England from cutting interest rates, either when its monetary committee meets next week or in May.

"This does not fundamentally alter the case for lower rates," said Ken Wainright of Paribas.

The monthly survey of purchasing managers in manufacturing showed activity in decline

BY DIANE COYLE  
Economics Editor

for the 12th successive month. But for the fifth time running the pace of decline had slowed. The index climbed from 45.9 to 47.2, closer to the watershed of 50.

Even more encouraging, there was a small increase in export orders although total orders declined once again. The

recent appreciation of the pound puts a question mark over future export orders, however.

Manufacturers are also cutting jobs at a faster pace than ever. The employment index dropped to 44.7 from 45.8.

Peter Thomson, the director general of the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply, said: "Despite the continued decline in overall activity, there

are further positive signs of an upturn in the manufacturing sector." Analysts agreed that manufacturing output was probably stabilising. Hopes were boosted by a surge in the US purchasing managers' survey from 52.4 to 54.3, defying expectations of an industrial slowdown across the Atlantic.

There were also improvements in similar surveys for

Germany and Italy. Both of these key export markets for UK manufacturers were in decline at the end of last year.

Separately, the Confederation of British Industry reported a recovery in retail sales volumes to their highest level since last September. This followed a subdued five months on the high street, according to its survey – which is, however,

an uncertain guide to official retail sales figures.

"The trend of solid but not spectacular retail sales growth continues," said Dharshini David of HSBC Markets.

The balance of retailers reporting higher sales volumes over those reporting a fall increased to 14 per cent from 2 per cent in February and minus 9 per cent in January.

But Alastair Eperon, chairman of the CBI's distributive trades panel, said there was little underlying growth. "A further cut in interest rates should be made next week," he said.

Next week will bring additional evidence that could sway the decision of the Monetary Policy Committee on Thursday. This includes the official industrial production figures for February, expected to show another drop in manufacturing output.

Since the last meeting, GDP for the final quarter has been revised down, and official statistics showed a small rise in unemployment and decline in retail sales in February.

Outlook, page 21

## MPs attack Brown's Budget arithmetic

LAST MONTH'S Budget did cut taxes, according to a report yesterday from an influential House of Commons committee. Diane Coyle, attacked the obscurity of the Budget documents. It said a leaflet on the Budget to be sent out to all households in Britain must be prepared with help from an independent body such as the National Audit Office or Institute of Fiscal Studies to "guarantee its impartiality".

But, in a judgement of Solomon on the subsequent tax row, it concluded the tax burden is nevertheless rising because of previously announced measures.

This should give the Bank of England leeway to cut interest rates, it said.

The Treasury Committee

committee said it added that changes in accounting conventions were acceptable but said: "The difference between the old and new systems should have been spelt out in ... the interests of transparency."

The MPs recommended that in future the Treasury should give full details of the impact of successive Budgets, and should also present the tax and spending figures on a consistent basis over time.

They criticised the fact that

it was not possible to track changes made between the pre-Budget report in November and the March Budget.

The MPs called for an assessment of the distributional impact of the Budget to be provided by the Treasury on Budget Day, rather than leaving it to answers to subsequent Parliamentary questions.

Francis Maude, shadow Chancellor, pounced on the criticisms. "This is a damning report," he said.

## Ashcroft in £282m bid for Corporate Services

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

MICHAEL ASHCROFT, the controversial deal-maker and Conservative Party treasurer, made a spectacular return to the City scene yesterday with an audacious bid of up to £282m for the crisis-ridden recruitment group Corporate Services.

However, Mr Ashcroft's attempt to win control of CS

# Here's hoping there's no nasty surprises in store

THE LONG Easter weekend break gives a pause for thought about share prices. We are engaged in a European war. The economic indicators for Britain are still fairly weak. The recovery in continental Europe remains patchy. Elsewhere in the world the East Asian economies remain at best fragile. Only the US continues to bound on. Yet share prices on Maundy Thursday were trading at record levels. From the perspective of the financial markets all must be well.

No, not just well – wonderful. As far as markets can say anything, for they represent, of course, the collective thoughts of a multitude of investors, all with differing views, they are saying something like this. The outlook for both the British economy and the world economy – remember more than half the profits of the Footsie 100 companies come from sales outside Britain – is better than it has been at any stage for at least a generation.

It is not just that share prices are at a record, for you would, of course, expect share prices to rise as the economy grows. The valuations on shares are also at record levels. You can see this in the graphs, which show the value of the all-share index has put on stocks since 1963. The price/earnings ratio of nearly 24 compares with an average of 13.7 since 1963 and with a peak of 23 in the 1960s. If you take the dividend yield, the market is now 2.4 per cent, compared with an average of 4.7 per cent and previous troughs at 3 per cent.

The valuations, therefore, are way out of line with the average over the past 35 or so years. How might you justify them? The period that best combines the present experience of low inflation and reasonable growth was the 1980s. The ABN-Amro team which produced these graphs argues that the price/earnings ratio is now similar to – though rather above – the 1980s level. These are historic levels,

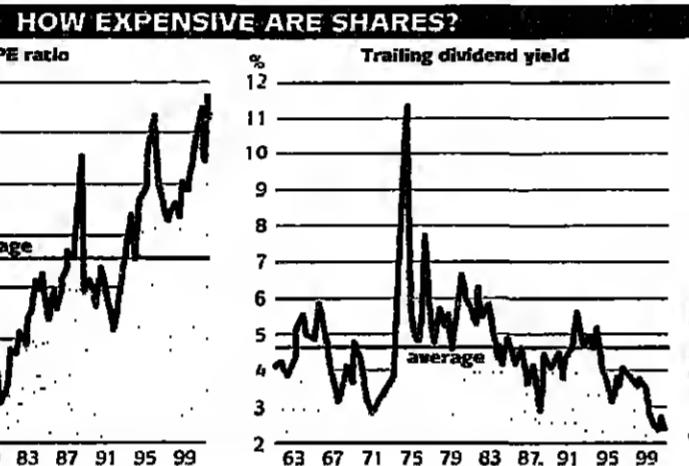


HAMISH MCRAE

*Prices are a bit high but given a decent summer and autumn, they should be okay*

comparing share prices with the earnings out-turn. If you take instead prospective p/e ratios, where prices are compared with the expected earnings, the present ratios are around 20. The team reckons that the prospective p/e that can be sustained in the long-term is around 17.

The sustainable dividend yield is put at 3.5 per cent. So until earnings come up a bit – as they may in the second half of this year – share prices do look on the high side, but they don't look absurdly high if economic prospects are indeed as good or better than they were in the 1980s.



There are other ways of valuing shares than the rather old-fashioned p/e ratios and dividend yields. You can for example look at the relationship between bonds and with index-linked gilts. The ABN-Amro team has brought these together into a composite valuation. Its conclusion? That prices are on the high side by historical standards but not at the extreme level they were at last summer.

That would certainly seem a good common sense conclusion. Provided the economy and earnings recover in the second half of this year you can still be reasonably optimistic about the market in the coming months.

So let's accept this as the base position: prices are a bit too high but given a decent summer and autumn they should still be okay. Now let's ask what the surprises might be, starting with the pleasant ones.

SURPRISE number one would be a stronger-than-expected UK recovery in the autumn. To get that you would need rather more confident consumers than we have at present, plus almost certainly a weaker sterling against the euro to boost exports. You would also need sustained demand in the big three Continental markets, particularly in the biggest, Ger-

many – which would be surprise number two.

Surprise number three would be the long-awaited recovery in Japan. The whole of the region, and China in particular, is desperate to see Japanese growth. Question: does the good first quarter performance of the Tokyo stock market, which was up 10.6 per cent in dollar terms, signal the start of a sustained economic recovery? Probably not yet, so it would be a pleasant surprise were it to occur.

Finally, surprise number four would be a continuation of solid US growth but growth associated with a narrowing current account gap rather than a soaring one. Up to now the surprises have been the extraordinary strength of US demand. But the trade imbalances, particularly with Japan and China, are stretching limits of the sustainable growth, relying not quite so much on the domestic consumer and helped by rising exports.

Now the negative surprises. These are really the mirror-image of the list above. First would come a disappointing UK growth performance this year, still possible but maybe looking a little less likely than it was a month ago. Maybe the relatively optimistic Treasury forecast will turn out right after all.

Surprise two would be a failure of the German economy to stage much of a recovery this year – if the first quarter turns out to be negative the country will have experienced a technical recession. Everyone could live with that provided they could see better times ahead. What they, or rather the markets, would find harder to stomach would be a flat summer and autumn. Germany has grown some of its own problems under the new government, but it is particularly vulnerable to trouble in eastern and central Europe. If Germany fails to recover, France and particularly Italy will have a very difficult autumn.

Problem number three would be a continued downward spiral in Japan, not so much for what that does to Japan itself (though that would be very unpleasant for the Japanese people) but more for what it would do to the fragile recovery now starting in the region. The Japanese influence goes far beyond trading relations; for Japan has extensive investment in local plants, many of which are running far below capacity – it needs an increase in domestic demand to crank up these factories, and hence the local economies.

And finally the US. The single biggest question is not so much the external imbalance, but the extent to which domestic demand has been sustained by the soaring stock market. When Wall Street dips, expect a dip elsewhere. But watch more for the impact on the US economy. The question no-one can know is the extent to which the long boom has been sustained by high share prices – much higher in relative terms than those here.

When valuations are a bit stretched, as they are now, they are obviously more vulnerable to disappointments than they are likely to be affected by the pleasant surprises. Indeed they need the pleasant surprises to support present values. Will they continue to get them? Happy Easter.

The former chairman Sir Paul Nicholson (centre) with chief executive Peter Catesby and Frank Nicholson, who is leading the buyout team. *Ashley Ashwood/FT*



## Swallow rejects revised offers for two breweries

By NIGEL COPE  
Associate City Editor

and damage to the local reputation of the Nicholson family, which has run the business for generations.

Following the rejection of its original offer last week, the breweries' management, backed by the Alchemy venture capital group, tabled two revised offers yesterday.

The first would have seen it double the offer price if Swallow agreed to sell all the 660 tenanted pubs instead of the 350 previously proposed. The other offer involved a reduced offer price if combined with a shortened beer supply agreement.

Swallow's chief executive Peter Catesby immediately re-

jected the new proposals as "inadequate". He described the revised beer supply option as "worse than the original offer" while the plan to involve all the pubs "was some £20m less than the value of the assets," he said.

M Catesby said the management buyout's plan was already £15m less than the value of the individual parts of the business. He concluded: "We do not propose to pursue further discussions with Alchemy and the MBO on this basis. We remain prepared to review any new proposals put to us."

Although there has been interest from Mansfield Brewery in the Sheffield site there have been no other offers for the Sunderland brewery. Swallow shares closed unchanged at 25p.

## Yahoo! buys Internet broadcaster

YAHOO!, the Internet search engine provider, yesterday strengthened its grip on cyberspace with the acquisition of Broadcast.com, a broadcaster of video and audio programmes over the World Wide Web, for \$5.7bn in stock. writes Peter Thal Larsen.

The acquisition will allow Yahoo! to take advantage of the growing demand for audio and video broadcasting over the In-

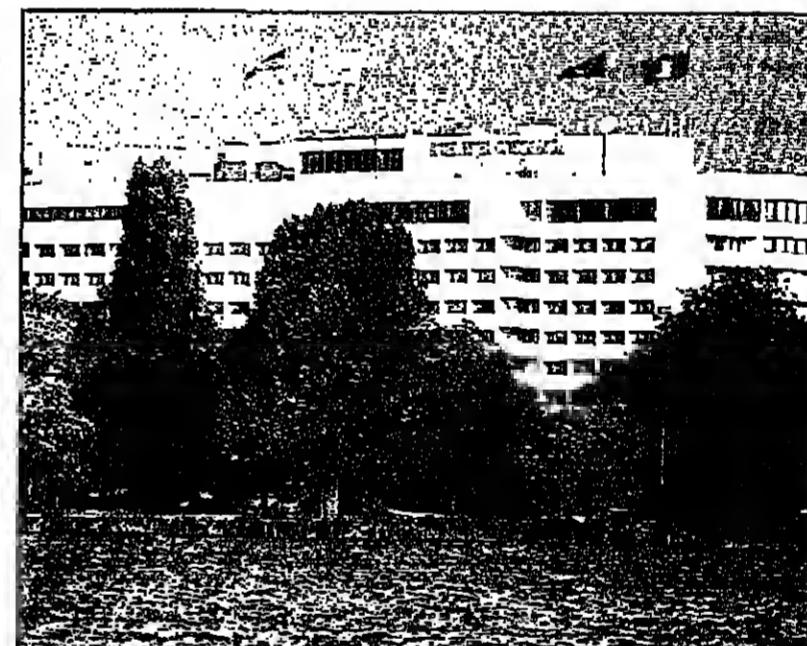
ternet, and the exponential growth in such programming that is expected to occur as millions of computer users upgrade to high-speed Internet connections in coming years.

Broadcast.com beams everything from presidential speeches, to investor conference calls and lingerie catwalk fashion shows over the web. The deal is the second multi-billion dollar acquisition for Yahoo! this year as it attempts to attract more users to its sites. In January it bought Geocities, which operates online communities, for \$4.6bn.

Meanwhile CBS, the television group, splashed out \$2.5bn on King World Productions, a TV production group whose programmes include "The Oprah Winfrey Show". The deal will bolster CBS's distribution and production businesses as it seeks to control more of the shows it airs.

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# Blue chips end April Fool's day on a dull note

**BLUE CHIPS** hit a record high but ended April Fool's day on a humourless note. After surging 10.8 points to a new 6,399.1 trading peak, Footsie ran out of enthusiasm and failed even to achieve a closing record. The final calculation was up 34.7 at 6,330, just 5.7 from the high reached last month.

The stock market stalled when New York again demonstrated its awesome power over London, opened on a hesitant note. There are fears that, with the Balkan crisis intensifying, the world's largest market could be in for an uncertain run.

But until New York's subdued display equities boomed as the market was captivated by lower interest rates hopes and gleeful anticipation of more mega deals.

The rush into Personal Equity Plans and jockeying ahead of the end of the tax year were decisive influences as share volume once again nudged 1.2

**VNG**, the video and film facilities group capitalised at £12.6m, is planning to expand in Europe and Australia.

It is raising £10m, placing shares at 50p each; the price shaded 15p to 52p. As part of the revamp David Hudd, formerly of Vardin, becomes chairman.

The group, which hones its overseas expansion will produce a more even profits flow between the two halves, has achieved profits of £1.18m, up 30 per cent.

billion. It was again a day for blue chip chasing with mid cap shares left in the cold, although the small caps managed moderate headway.

The market has this year experienced the wall of money argument as cash rich institutions have piled in and private investors have scrambled to buy PEPs; it is estimated that PEP business in February and March was up 63 per cent on the same months last year.

BP Amoco kept the merger pot boiling when it duly rolled out its take over of Atlantic Richfield, which will make institutional investors even more under weight in the stock. The claim by the Ing investment house in New York that the shares were overvalued took the shine off the price; it fell 39p to 1,009.5p.

Banks and drugs captured the bid imagination. Persistent rumours again swirled of a major banking deal: Barclays soared 77p (after 104p) to 1,858p. Stockbroker Sutherlands regard the shares as a hit after talking to the company.

Telecoms were back in demand. Vodafone dialled a 31p gain to 1,182p ahead of quarterly mobile phone figures and BT's decision to cut mobile call charges; BT gained 17p to 1,028p. Securicor, still reflecting hopes BT will take full control of the Celinet mobile phone group, gained 22.5p to 568p. Cok Telecom rose 32p to 1,148p and Telewest Communications, encouraged by positive comments from Morgan

## MARKET REPORT



DEREK  
PAIN

buying may have been fuelled by institutional shareholders establishing their positions before the deal is concluded. Glaxo is more likely to try to resurrect deals with either Bristol Myers Squibb or SmithKline Beecham.

Supermarket chain Safeway was at one time 8.75p higher as bid stories resurfaced. The shares ended 5p harder at 247.5p.

The re-appearance of legendarily deal maker Michael Ashcroft with a takeover bid for troubled Corporate Services enlivened the undercard. His Carlisle vehicle is merging with his US operation and bidding in cash and shares up to 228p for troubled Corporate Services, 21p higher at 94.5p.

Hall Engineering rose 14.5p to 155p as the management buy-out came in at 155p a share. Rival bidder the TT conglomerate, is pondering whether to top the managers' offer.

Take over chatter edged Cox Insurance 2.5p higher at 165p and engineer Alumasc 13.5p to 165p.

But the latest Pilkington bid story was shattered. Saint Gobain, the French group, denied the bid rumour and once again Pilk's shares cracked down 6p to 76.5p with accusations going the rounds that old-fashioned

There are signs the fall has been too steep.

Investec Henderson Crosthwaite is now in a bind believing the decline has been over done and WestLB Panmure say the shares should be 150p.

Director buying helped the price up 3.5p to 346p yesterday.

raised eyebrows by moving its 24.4 per cent stake in Arm, the chip maker, to its Applied Risc Technologies off shoot. The group wants to cash in its Arm shareholding, possibly distributing the shares to its shareholders, but has been inhibited by tax problems. Acorn said the switch did not imply any deal was imminent.

Arm rose 35p to 2.735p; the shares arrived at around 800p a year ago. The Arm stake is worth £215m, which compares with Acorn's capitalisation of less than £200m.

Bernard Matthews, the meat group, held at 129p with Investec Henderson Crosthwaite saying the shares offered good value.

Stockbroker Raphael Zorn Hemsley fell 25p to 67.5p following a surprise profit warning. The shares were 137.5p last year. The insurance specialist blamed a "poor market" in recent months. Elixir, an electronics group which produced a profit warning on Wednesday, fell a further 62.5p to 197.5p; the shares touched 147.5p last year.

Sane, the hard-pressed petrol retailer, firmed up to 36p with indications the industry giants are increasing their forecourt prices fuelling the gains.

Dentmaster, which specialises in knocking dents out of car bodies, held at 35p. It raised around £5.50 placing shares at 4.5p. The cash will be used to fund US expansion.

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SEAG VOLUME: 1.2bn  
SEAG TRADES: 111,338

SEAG VOLUME: 1.2bn  
SEAG TRADES:

Page	Self	Buy	+/-	Td	Int.	Chg %	Fund	Self	Buy	+/-	Td	Int.	Chg %	Fund	Self	Buy	+/-	Td	Int.	Chg %	Fund	Self	Buy	+/-	Td	Int.	Chg %	
1	AEG Afford Properties Ltd	100.00	100.00	-0.00	0.00	0.00	Portfolio Acc	407.50	432.60	150	1,10	5	0.00	0.00	European	80.26	69.26	0.11	7.90%	0.00	0.00	0.00	Portfolio Acc	105.54	115.70	92.74	1.93	0.00
2	Aeon Par Europe	50.04	50.04	-0.00	0.00	0.00	Portfolio Acc	100.00	120.00	150	1,10	5	0.00	0.00	American	146.42	146.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	Corporate Bond	120.70	120.70	120.70	0.00	0.00	
3	Global Income	245.37	250.87	1.38	2.10	0.00	Portfolio Acc	173.00	220.00	150	1,10	5	0.00	0.00	Corporate	141.00	163.50	150	1,10	5	0.00	Corporate Bond	120.70	120.70	120.70	0.00	0.00	
4	Growth	372.62	386.03	1.24	2.05	0.00	Portfolio Acc	181.00	210.00	150	1,10	5	0.00	0.00	Equity Income	142.00	142.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	Corporate Bond	120.70	120.70	120.70	0.00	0.00	
5	High Income	50.77	52.71	-0.18	0.63	0.00	Portfolio Acc	140.00	153.00	140	0.00	5	0.00	0.00	Equity Income	142.00	142.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	Corporate Bond	120.70	120.70	120.70	0.00	0.00	
6	Goldman Sachs	102.00	109.04	1.42	0.53	0.00	Portfolio Acc	100.00	120.00	150	1,10	5	0.00	0.00	Equity Income	142.00	142.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	Corporate Bond	120.70	120.70	120.70	0.00	0.00	
7	Other Assets	102.00	109.04	1.42	0.53	0.00	Portfolio Acc	100.00	120.00	150	1,10	5	0.00	0.00	Equity Income	142.00	142.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	Corporate Bond	120.70	120.70	120.70	0.00	0.00	
8	4 Bottles Bridge Lane, London SE1 2BQ						Other Assets	62.20	63.13	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.00	Other Assets	62.20	63.13	0.9	0.0	0.00	0.00	Corporate Bond	120.70	120.70	120.70	0.00	0.00	
9	AEG Asset Trust Ltd						Other Assets	62.20	63.13	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.00	Other Assets	62.20	63.13	0.9	0.0	0.00	0.00	Corporate Bond	120.70	120.70	120.70	0.00	0.00	
10	American General	358.16	408.24	51.77	0.00	0.00	Other Assets	100.00	120.00	150	1,10	5	0.00	0.00	Other Assets	62.20	63.13	0.9	0.0	0.00	0.00	Corporate Bond	120.70	120.70	120.70	0.00	0.00	
11	American Gen Co	100.00	100.00	-1.42	0.00	0.00	Other Assets	100.00	120.00	150	1,10	5	0.00	0.00	Other Assets	62.20	63.13	0.9	0.0	0.00	0.00	Corporate Bond	120.70	120.70	120.70	0.00	0.00	
12	Asta Par	71.50	71.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	Other Assets	100.00	120.00	150	1,10	5	0.00	0.00	Other Assets	62.20	63.13	0.9	0.0	0.00	0.00	Corporate Bond	120.70	120.70	120.70	0.00	0.00	
13	Selected Exempt	192.77	193.70	0.93	0.00	0.00	Other Assets	100.00	120.00	150	1,10	5	0.00	0.00	Other Assets	62.20	63.13	0.9	0.0	0.00	0.00	Corporate Bond	120.70	120.70	120.70	0.00	0.00	
14	Other Assets	102.00	109.04	1.42	0.53	0.00	Other Assets	100.00	120.00	150	1,10	5	0.00	0.00	Other Assets	62.20	63.13	0.9	0.0	0.00	0.00	Corporate Bond	120.70	120.70	120.70	0.00	0.00	
15	4 Bottles Bridge Lane, London SE1 2BQ						Other Assets	62.20	63.13	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.00	Other Assets	62.20	63.13	0.9	0.0	0.00	0.00	Corporate Bond	120.70	120.70	120.70	0.00	0.00	
16	AEG Asset Trust Ltd						Other Assets	62.20	63.13	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.00	Other Assets	62.20	63.13	0.9	0.0	0.00	0.00	Corporate Bond	120.70	120.70	120.70	0.00	0.00	
17	AEG Asset Trust Ltd						Other Assets	62.20	63.13	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.00	Other Assets	62.20	63.13	0.9	0.0	0.00	0.00	Corporate Bond	120.70	120.70	120.70	0.00	0.00	
18	AEG Asset Trust Ltd						Other Assets	62.20	63.13	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.00	Other Assets	62.20	63.13	0.9	0.0	0.00	0.00	Corporate Bond	120.70	120.70	120.70	0.00	0.00	
19	AEG Asset Trust Ltd						Other Assets	62.20	63.13	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.00	Other Assets	62.20	63.13	0.9	0.0	0.00	0.00	Corporate Bond	120.70	120.70	120.70	0.00	0.00	
20	AEG Asset Trust Ltd						Other Assets	62.20	63.13	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.00	Other Assets	62.20	63.13	0.9	0.0	0.00	0.00	Corporate Bond	120.70	120.70	120.70	0.00	0.00	
21	AEG Asset Trust Ltd						Other Assets	62.20	63.13	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.00	Other Assets	62.20	63.13	0.9	0.0	0.00	0.00	Corporate Bond	120.70	120.70	120.70	0.00	0.00	
22	AEG Asset Trust Ltd						Other Assets	62.20	63.13	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.00	Other Assets	62.20	63.13	0.9	0.0	0.00	0.00	Corporate Bond	120.70	120.70	120.70	0.00	0.00	
23	AEG Asset Trust Ltd						Other Assets	62.20	63.13	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.00	Other Assets	62.20	63.13	0.9	0.0	0.00	0.00	Corporate Bond	120.70	120.70	120.70	0.00	0.00	
24	AEG Asset Trust Ltd						Other Assets	62.20	63.13	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.00	Other Assets	62.20	63.13	0.9	0.0	0.00	0.00	Corporate Bond	120.70	120.70	120.70	0.00	0.00	
25	AEG Asset Trust Ltd						Other Assets	62.20	63.13	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.00	Other Assets	62.20	63.13	0.9	0.0	0.00	0.00	Corporate Bond	120.70	120.70	120.70	0.00	0.00	
26	AEG Asset Trust Ltd						Other Assets	62.20	63.13	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.00	Other Assets	62.20	63.13	0.9	0.0	0.00	0.00	Corporate Bond	120.70	120.70	120.70	0.00	0.00	
27	AEG Asset Trust Ltd						Other Assets	62.20	63.13	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.00	Other Assets	62.20	63.13	0.9	0.0	0.00	0.00	Corporate Bond	120.70	120.70	120.70	0.00	0.00	
28	AEG Asset Trust Ltd						Other Assets	62.20	63.13	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.00	Other Assets	62.20	63.13	0.9	0.0	0.00	0.00	Corporate Bond	120.70	120.70	120.70	0.00	0.00	
29	AEG Asset Trust Ltd						Other Assets	62.20	63.13	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.00	Other Assets	62.20	63.13	0.9	0.0	0.00	0.00	Corporate Bond	120.70	120.70	120.70	0.00	0.00	
30	AEG Asset Trust Ltd						Other Assets	62.20	63.13	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.00	Other Assets	62.20	63.13	0.9	0.0	0.00	0.00	Corporate Bond	120.70	120.70	120.70	0.00	0.00	
31	AEG Asset Trust Ltd						Other Assets	62.20	63.13	0.9	0																	

حكماء من الأرض

# SPORT

Rugby Union: A record campaign has further strengthened the spirit of a club pulled together by economic adversity



Richmond rally to the cause in training at the Bank of England sports ground, Roehampton, for the biggest game in their history, the Tetley's Bitter Cup semi-final against Newcastle tomorrow

Robert Hallam

## Fresh hope for tortured Richmond



Kingston: 'No dissent here'

THE BANK of England sports ground seems an ironic choice of training venue given the financial straits in which Richmond found themselves a month or so ago - circumstances grave enough to force the club to go into administration and cut back their staffing levels and wage bill.

It will not sort out their cash problems, but the Richmond players certainly seemed happy enough, carefree even, at their adopted headquarters in Roehampton south-west London, as they completed preparations for the biggest match in the club's history, the Tetley's Bitter Cup semi-final against Newcastle at Reading's Madejski Stadium tomorrow.

It is a stage further than Richmond have ever been before in the knock-out competition and they want victory badly. "This is a very important match to us," insisted their Argentinian scrum-half, Agustin Pichot. "We have had problems with our form in the league, there has been the problems off the

pitch and players having to leave, so the Cup represents a chance for us to put some things right."

John Kingston, the club's director of rugby, admitted: "I am excited about it. The pressure of the off-field problems has eased now. I think it will be an enjoyable occasion. The problems that we have had have been publicised for the last month or so, but in reality it has been an extremely tough world for us for the last year or so."

"We have been disposing of players rather than acquiring them. It has come to the fore with going into administration and the sadness of that but we had already reached a point where the recruiting had to stop. We had a wage cap on our players long before it became a topic of discussion and policy among the rest of the Premiership clubs."

According to Kingston, adversity has had a positive effect on everyone in his charge. "I have recruited 60 or 70 players in my five years at

Richmond. I have made some mistakes, but the most important thing to me, over and above the obvious quality of ability, is the character of the player; I have a bunch of people who want to play for Richmond. When you get a kick in the bollocks from life it tends to pull you together more."

Which is what has happened at Richmond. Pichot explained: "The recent situation has helped the players. It has revealed another side of everyone in the squad - the human side and that is very important for the team."

As a measure of the kind of spirit that has been engendered at the club you only had to see Adrian Davies helping with the training just a couple of days after a visit to the dole office. "Adrian personifies the spirit of Richmond," Kingston said.

"Don't let anyone tell you there is dissent in the ranks here, because it isn't so. We respect each other and work hard for each other."

"Jim Hamilton-Smith was on the bench last weekend for the Harle-

quins match. He is another of the players we made redundant. Yet he wanted to be there. I paid him out of my own pocket."

And before the vultures start gathering, looking for scrapped contracts, they would be well advised not to waste their time. By all accounts the players want to stay where they are. Kingston explained: "The players have actually come to me and said, 'So-and-so has been on the phone [and these are Premier league clubs], what do you want me to say John?'" I say, "It's your life. You are out of contract." They tell me they don't want to go. So I say to them, 'Tell the clubs that you want to wait to see what happens here first.'

Pichot is a fine example. His contract comes up for renewal at the end of next month and he is going to have to confront the prospect of leaving. "I don't want to walk away from Richmond. I have been through hard times and good times with the club. They gave me a chance. But I am 24. I have a long career ahead of me and I want to be

sure where I am going to spend the next four years. At the moment it is too early for me to make a decision. But I don't want to leave."

Perhaps, if they reach the final, and whisper it, win the Cup, things would be rosier on the financial front. Kingston, ever the pragmatist, dismisses the notion. "Frankly I don't think there is that much money to be had in getting to the final," he said. "The cash is spread around." No, Kingston is not looking beyond tomorrow.

"It is wonderful to have reached the semi-final," he said. "Four years ago we were bottom of the Third and we had to beat Blackheath to avoid relegation to the Fourth Division. That's pressure. I am very proud of what we have achieved. I feel Richmond have never stopped going upwards since I have been at the club."

This is obviously a great opportunity, but even if things do not go well for us on Saturday, then I have to be reflective about it. After all, we will still finish sixth or seventh in the league." And negotiating a passage to the final around Newcastle is no easy task.

Kingston acknowledged: "Newcastle are a hard, uncompromising bunch. And they didn't get the credit they deserved for winning the league last year. You talk about rises. For them, for anybody who comes out of Division Two and then to succeed is very hard. So for them to win the league last year, I think, was just unbelievable."

Kingston, being a North-easterner, feels things a little more keenly than most when it comes to trying to bring down the Falcons. "The rivalry goes back to our days in the Second Division. But there is always an edge for me when we play each other, with it being my home land, as it were. I get up for it, maybe the players realise that and they get more up for these games as well."

"But while they are a good side, they do not hold any fears for us. We know about them. We have beaten them well the last two times we have played them. We will respect them, but that is where it will stop."

## America's Cup low on Spirit of Britain

Lack of corporate interest has scuppered UK hopes of entering the world's greatest yacht race next year. By Stuart Alexander

THE THREADBARE coat of optimism worn by the Spirit of Britain America's Cup syndicate is looking increasingly like an emperor's illusion as time runs out on a dream to see the UK's return to the millennium party that will be New Zealand's defence early next year.

Every day the same question is asked more anxiously: Has the life support machine, which has included personal contributions from the syndicate's chairman, professor Andrew Graves, and principal players, Lawrie Smith and Angus Melrose, plus sponsorship from the likes of British Aerospace and Silic Graphics, been turned off?

The silence is reminiscent of Soviet days in the Kremlin when a president was dying. Everyone was convinced it was happening, knew what was coming, but it could not be spoken. Even last week's optimism about flying in a team of boat builders to start work is smothered in caveats by Graves.

The difference is that there is no hint apparent waiting to take over. Britain has not been able to send a competitor to the last two Cups, held in San Diego in 1992 and 1995. The last time a British boat was on the race course was in 1986 in Fremantle,

Western Australia when Graham Walker's Crusader was eliminated before the semi-finals of the Louis Vuitton Cup challenger series.

Attempts have been made since then to whip up enthusiasm but neither British sponsorship nor, for that matter, European or global finance has been forthcoming. In contrast, there will be five US syndicates vying for the right to be the ultimate sole challenger to the Kiwis next February. The French and the Australians are ever-present, the Japanese and Spanish are in for a third time, and the Italians are back, having won the challenger slot in 1992.

Even that great European maritime nation, Switzerland, looks like making it to the start line.

A sensible campaign can be put together for around £10 million. Five partners putting in £2m each over two or three years would barely dent the marketing budgets of a surprising number of Britain's big companies. They have all been approached and all, so far, have said no. Britain has the technological resources to test, design and build a competitive boat, but despite considerable work with the help of BAE and SG, plus the offer of tank-testing support from the Defence Establishment Research Agency, not

a single model has been built. The Kiwis, with a population not much more than one twentieth of Britain's, have been in the tank at Southampton's Woolston Institute for almost all the five years since they became only the second nation in history to take the Cup away from the Americans.

There is also enough sailing talent in the UK to handle the boats and take on the opposition, though there is a transition from an older guard to a newer one taking place. There was always a line of thinking that a presence at the 2000 Cup would, in the absence of a breakthrough design, be only one half of a double challenge with the second, perhaps in 2003, made crucially stronger by a British presence at the first.

Reasons given for the lack of commercial backing range from the venue - New Zealand is a long way to take guests - to the time zone - racing would take place in the early hours of a European morning - to the uncertainty over the extent of television coverage, for which a basic deal was agreed only last month.

But what claims to be sport's oldest trophy has a mystique which transcends the normal. It has always produced Machiavellian skulduggery and larger-than-life charac-

ters, intriguing both non-sports fans as well as those who would watch anything from the football World Cup to a cockroach race. Perhaps too large, according to the man who last skippered a British challenge, Harry Cudmore. The America's Cup, he says, is such a large prospect that any individual backer for a challenge may face the accusation of being on a major ego trip. Watching the Alan Bond, Peter de Savarys and Bill Kochs strutting the America's Cup catwalk has bred an atmosphere of caution. "I have talked to the Germans, who are also not there, and they feel the same," Cudmore says. "It's just too high profile, the wrong footing."

The hope is that the sport's national governing body, the Royal Yachting Association, will pick up the ball and run with it. It tried in January and February but tripped up. There is support for yachting in the UK, but it tends to be for adventure things like amateur round-the-world races or single-handed races rather than the mainstream," he says. "The only grand prix money has tended to come from tobacco companies."

Yet Cudmore points to a new, more ambitious leadership, which could succeed where senior establishment yacht clubs have failed.

The America's Cup itself also needs a new direction and a new directorate. It is not too early to start work on both problems, with the blantly parochial self-interest of British participation taking priority.

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Lawrie Smith: unable to attract sufficient backing

THE BOAT RACE crews, with little over 24 hours to go, have cut their training to the minimum with the few remaining sessions devoted to precision work and practice race starts. They go from the stake boats moored in the stream with the unfamiliar sensation of the Tide running underneath. This year the Umpire, Mark Evans, an Oxford Blue and 1984 Olympic champion, has decreed that the blades must remain flat on the water until he calls "go".

In past years the crews have squared the blade in the water on the word "attention", ready to pull clearly on the final command. This, with the water flowing past the hull, means the boat has been dragged forward, stretching the stake boat men's arms, and sometimes giving a small but still unfair advantage for one side.

The warm-up to this year's Boat Race is enhanced with a brilliant line-up for the World Sculling Challenge over the same course this afternoon. At 3.30pm a field of five of the top women scullers, including Ekaterina Khodotovich, the 1996 Olympic champion, will race off, followed half an hour later by five men, four of whom are former world singles sculls champions at heavyweight and lightweight.

The Challenges are a revival of the match races which dominated the sport on the Thames for 200 years before dying out early this century. Today's race is the seventh since the revival and the first since the sport's amateur code was abandoned. The present qualification is that the entrant

to the final around Newcastle is no easy task.

Kingston acknowledged: "Newcastle are a hard, uncompromising bunch. And they didn't get the credit they deserved for winning the league last year. You talk about rises. For them, for anybody who comes out of Division Two and then to succeed is very hard. So for them to win the league last year, I think, was just unbelievable."

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## Fair start for the Boat Race

### ROWING

BY HUGH MATHESON

must be an Olympic or World singles sculling champion such as Giovanni Calabrese of Italy, or, like Guin Batten of Britain, a former Thames World Sculling Trophy holder.

The greatest risk to such a distinguished group is the Bank Holiday river traffic. The Putney-to-Mortlake reach will not be closed to other users as it is for the Boat Race, and with strangers unfamiliar to the river and its unexpected hazards this could be a disastrous combination.

The four-and-a-half mile distance and the subtleties of the fast stream which is found where the river runs deepest mean that the normal rule of power over skill is reversed, with watermanship and tactical wit more likely to prevail.

Among the men the only local, Greg Searle, the first British sculler to win a World medal since the war, has dropped out with a back injury, leaving Jamie Koven of the United States and Derek Porter of Canada as the bigger men, with Izbok Cop of Slovenia - the winner in 1985, who was only released from military duty yesterday - as the slightly smaller men.

He denied that his late arrival is due to the Balkan crisis, saying, "No, it is just that my commander is a fool."

The men's line-up is completed by Calabrese and the other Italian Stephano Basalini, the 1998 lightweight champion.

# Flintoff hits England for six and more

ENGLAND'S BOWLERS completed yesterday's warm-up match enthusing about the explosive strokeplay of Andrew Flintoff. Opening their preparation for next week's Coca-Cola Cup tournament in Sharjah with a gentle warm-up against the local side Lahore Gymkhana, the tourists chose to give Vince Wells and Flintoff to the opposition so all 14 squad members could have a run-out ahead of this weekend's tough day-night fixtures against Pakistan A.

Despite completing a comfortable 137-run victory, the most lasting impression was the vision of Gymkhana's No 4 batsman thumping England's first-choice attack to all parts of the picturesque ground on his

## CRICKET

BY MYLES HODGSON

in Lahore

England 375-5

Lahore Gymkhana 238-9

England win by 137 runs

way to a thrilling 112 off just 67

innings in match conditions since returning home early from the Ashes tour with back trouble, missed out and Alec Stewart, Graeme Hick, Adam Hollioake and Fairbrother all retired out having scored half-centuries and helping England to a towering total of 375 for 5.

None of their innings matched the intensity and brilliance of Flintoff's display, however, which was only ended when Hollioake, his main rival for the No 6 batting spot in the World Cup team, uprooted his middle stump with a yorker.

England even resorted to trying to kid him out, loudly appealing for a caught behind early in his innings, a ploy which may have worked had they not tried the same trick on Wells.

His departure, and the early loss of Wells for 30 when he failed to spot Ian Austin's slower ball and patted a return catch straight back to the bowler, effectively ended the contest and Gymkhana finished on 238 for 9 after Stewart allowed eight of his bowlers to get their first overs of the trip under their belts.

*England won toss  
ENGLAND*

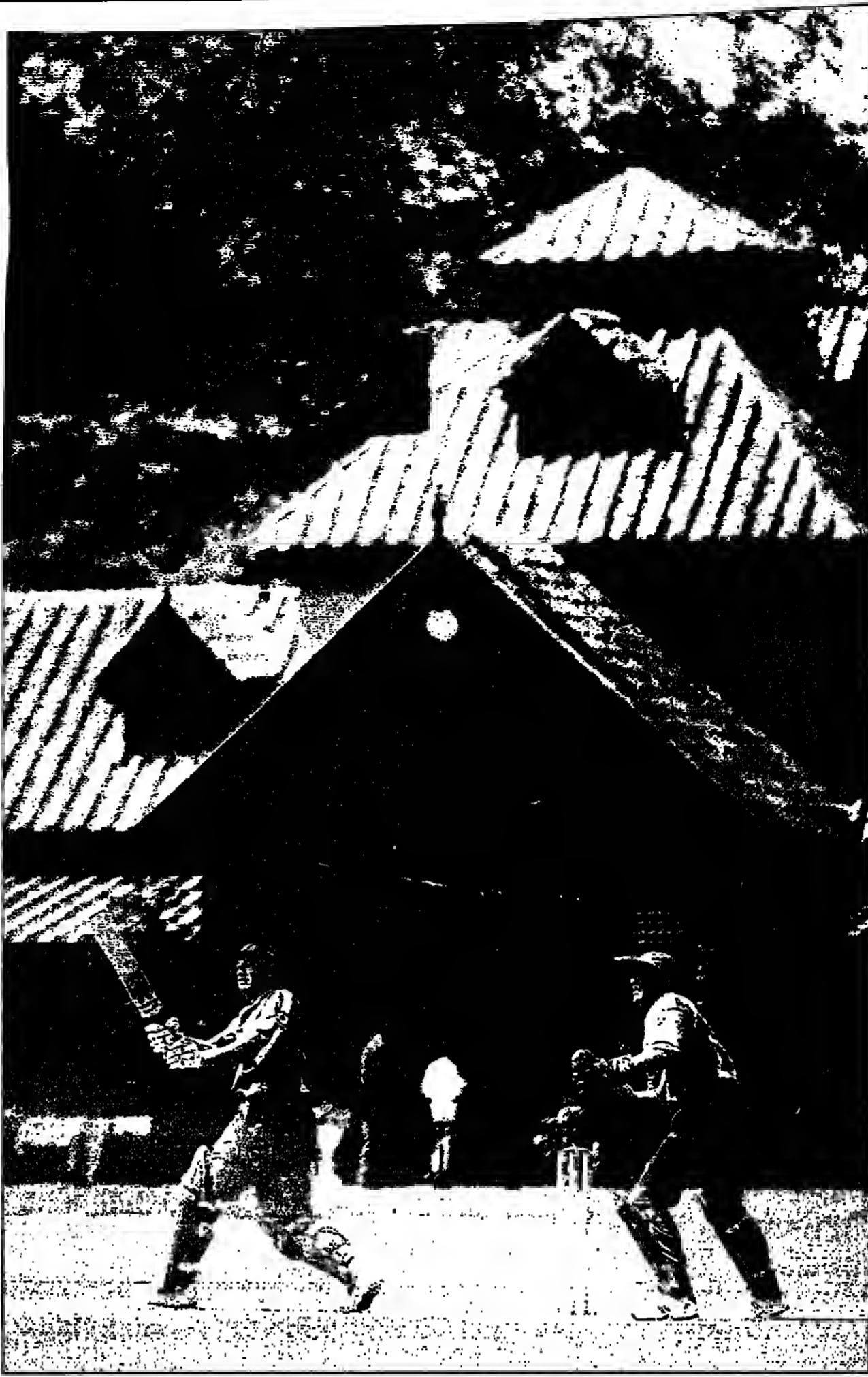
N V Knight c Adeel  
Adeel Akhtar b Shoaib Akhtar bowled eight spells and kept the 1st wans subdued.

Opener Saurav Ganguly retired hurt after he was hit in the ribs by a rising delivery from Akhtar. He later resumed and turned out to be the top scorer for India, with 57 runs. The only other notable Indian contribution came from all-rounder Robin Singh, who scored 42 runs.

Some 1,000 Pakistani fans travelled across the border in a demonstration of the thaw in relations between the two archrivals. Indian and Pakistani flags fluttered alongside each other as spectators shouted slogans of friendship to each other.

Indian authorities issued passes for the visitors and arranged transport and lodging for them as a gesture of friendship as they travelled across the border of the Punjab province.

India's substitute captain, Ajay Jadeja, won the toss and elected to bat. But Pakistan's



Vince Wells, keeping wicket for Gymkhana, eyes Graeme Hick's hit over deep square in Lahore yesterday Allsport

## Inzamam shows Pakistan the way

IJAZ AHMED and Inzamam-ul-Haq each hit unbeaten half centuries as Pakistan cruised to a seven-wicket victory over India yesterday in the Pepsi Cup triangular tournament. Both sides had already qualified for Sunday's final in Bangalore having beaten Sri Lanka, who have been knocked out.

After bowing out India for 196, Pakistan reached the target of 197 in only 42 overs with Ijaz and Inzamam putting on 163 runs for the unbroken fourth wicket. Ijaz and Inzamam came to the crease after Pakistan had suffered a top-order collapse, losing three wickets for 34 runs. India's medium pacer Venkatesh Prasad claimed the wickets for 27 runs. Ijaz remained on 83 not out and Inzamam 63 not out. Inzamam woos a reprieve when he was dropped by Gyandara Pandey at deep midwicket after he had scored 40 runs.

India's substitute captain, Ajay Jadeja, won the toss and elected to bat. But Pakistan's

traversed across the border in a demonstration of the thaw in relations between the two archrivals. Indian and Pakistani flags fluttered alongside each other as spectators shouted slogans of friendship to each other.

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## Hassell rejects Wisden claims

CHRIS HASSELL, the Yorkshire chief executive, has described *Wisden's* criticism of club cricket in the county as ill-informed. Matthew Engel, the editor of *Wisden*, claims in the new edition that "cricketing apartheid" has become "accepted practice" in England.

"It has become normal for ethnic-minority players to gravitate towards their own clubs, and there is now clear-cut evidence of segregation operating informally, in both Yorkshire and Essex," Engel wrote in the editorial to this year's edition.

Accusations of racism in the county have been levelled on many occasions before, notably by the former England skipper, Allan Lamb, who complained about the treatment meted out to the Indian spinner, Anil Kumble, during a NatWest semi-final between Yorkshire and Northamptonshire at Headingley.

And while Engel's claims are directed more at the local leagues than the county itself, Hassell was quick to counter the accusation. "We have taken positive steps to address the situation but a fair bit of these comments are ill-informed," he said. "I don't think there is anything specific about ethnic groups gravitating together in Yorkshire. It happens everywhere. All different nationalities are as guilty of that as any other."

"Our cricket development officer for West Yorkshire - Tony Bowry - is West Indian and he has specific responsibility for black and ethnic issues."

Yorkshire have been heavily criticised in the past for the absence of Asian players from the county side. In an area boasting a high percentage of players from the sub-continent, only one has ever played first-class cricket for the county and that was the former Indian skipper, Sachin Tendulkar, employed as an overseas player.

Yorkshire's fully-Asian competition, the Quaid-e-Azam League, has been competing in the White Rose Trophy for the last few years, which Hassell feels is a positive step. "It is important they are part of the competition and it helps us to monitor the quality of the players coming through the system."

## Vickery return lifts Gloucester

DAVE SIMS and his Gloucester colleagues were more than a little surprised to see their beloved Kingsholm home stead advertised for sale on the Internet yesterday - a holdover from the spoof on the club website. But the shock was probably nothing compared to the announcement that Phil Vickery, their long-lost England prop, was named in a 24-man squad for the Titel's Bitter Cup semi-final with Wasps at Loftus Road on Sunday.

There was no guarantee that the 22-year-old tighthead would start one of the most important matches in recent Gloucester history, but his very presence in the party was enough to bolster West Country confidence in ad-

the southern hemisphere last summer, completed an encouraging 20 minutes in a second-string club game last week and has suffered no ill effects from a sharp upturn in his training regime.

Philippe Saint Andre, the Gloucester player-coach, said yesterday that he wanted to give a number of players the chance to prove their fitness, hence his decision to break with habit and name a squad rather than a starting line-up. Richie Tombs has recovered from knee trouble and should return to midfield, but there is still mild concern over three tight forwards. Andy Deacon, who has performed the Vickery role these last five months, is struggling with shin trouble, while Rob Fidler, an England lock last summer, has rib prob-

lems. Sims, the club captain, should he fit after suffering a blow to the head three weeks ago.

The Irish international selectors have reacted to the more significant Five Nations

leagues by dealt by Scotland in Edinburgh last month by changing half their side for next weekend's awkward Test with Italy at Lansdowne Road. The major casualties are two front-rowers, Keith Wood and Paul Wallace, both of whom would have challenged for a World XV at the start of the tournament.

Wood is replaced by Ross Neesdale, the New Zealand-born hooker from Newcastle, while Wallace concedes his tight-head berth to Peter Coady, who moves across from loose-head. Both big names drop to

the bench, with Justin Fitzpatrick, the Dungannon loose-head who helped Ulster to their famous European Cup triumph in January, getting a rare start at the sharp end.

There are two further changes to the pack, both in the back row: Dion O'Cuinneagain moves from blind-side flanker to the open side to replace Andy Ward while Victor Costello starts at No 8 instead of the injured Eric Miller. Trevor Brennan of Maynooth College completes the trio.

Outside the scrum, Claran Scally gets a chance at scrum-half - Coor McGuinness is among the replacements, while Rob Henderson of Wasps eases out his great rival, Jonathan Bell, in the centre. At outside-half, Eric Elwood fills

in for another injured first choice, David Humphreys.

Meanwhile, Adrian Hadley yesterday confirmed he would not be a candidate for the vacant coaching post at Sale. The former Wales wing has been appointed head of rugby in the wake of John Mitchell's resignation on Wednesday, but does not want to commit himself to full-time coaching.

Ireland team (v Italy, Lansdowne Road, 10 April): C O'Shea, J Bishop, N McAllister, P Denton, E Elwood, C Scally, J Fitzpatrick, R Neesdale, P Colessey, P Johns (capt), D Davidson, T Brennan, D O'Cuinneagain, V Costello.

■ Jonah Lomu is taking an insurance company to court over a sickness claim after he was out of the game for a year with a kidney disease. The All Black winger is suing the company for failing to accept his health insurance claim for nephrotic syndrome.

Outside the scrum, Claran Scally gets a chance at scrum-half - Coor McGuinness is among the replacements, while Rob Henderson of Wasps eases out his great rival, Jonathan Bell, in the centre. At outside-half, Eric Elwood fills

## Hickman has the edge as record falls

JAMES HICKMAN continued his winning ways at the World Short Course Championships here yesterday when he won his 100m butterfly semi-final in his second championship record time of the day.

The 23-year-old finished in 51.51sec, beating Sweden's Lars Frolander by 0.02sec.

Hickman's time was less than half a second outside his own world record, set in Sheffield last December, and 0.27sec faster than his morning swim.

Frolander was level with Hickman throughout the race but the Briton just had the edge when it mattered at the final touch. "It felt all right. I think I am a lot more relaxed now I've done a finals session," Hickman said.

The British girls' 4x100m freestyle quartet won Britain's first medal, a silver. After setting a new European record in the morning heats, they hoped to be chasing gold in the final but unfortunately the Swedish women proved too strong.

From the morning heats, Vicki Horner was replaced by the former world short course champion, Karen Pickering. Claire Huddart, Karen Legg, Nicola Jackson and Pickering produced an outstanding team effort to take silver in a British and Commonwealth record of 7min 53.98sec. The Swedes broke the world record set by China at the championships two years ago.

Susan Rolph qualified for today's 100m freestyle final in fourth spot, despite her goggles slipping and preventing her from seeing the end of the pool. The 20-year-old European Short Course champion said afterwards: "I couldn't see the wall, but I'm happy." The fastest qualifier was the world champion, Jenny Thompson of the United States, who recorded 53.27sec.

## SWIMMING

BY DERRICK WHYTE  
in Hong Kong

Yorkshire-born Zoe Baker, now based in New Zealand, finished a creditable seventh in the 50m breaststroke final. Her time of 31.55sec was one-hundredth outside her own six-week-old British record. Masami Tanaka of Japan, took the gold medal.

Baker was disappointed, though, and said: "I was going for a medal but I lost so much on the pull out underwater. The swimming speed is fine but I am just not happy with the way I pull out after the start and turn."

A 15-year-old schoolgirl clocked Britain's fastest time in the 4x200m freestyle relay final. Hickman's time was 31.55sec. His time of 31.55sec was one-hundredth outside his own six-week-old British record. Masami Tanaka of Japan, took the gold medal.

"It was very hard," Jackson said. "I think I'm the only medal I'll win at this meet so I'm thrilled."

Margaretha Pedder was disappointed with her swim in the final of the 200m butterfly after the 18-year-old from Portsmouth had set a British record swim in the morning heats. Her time of 2min 10.76sec was 0.56sec slower than her heat swim. Mette Jacobsen from Denmark won gold with a European record of 2min 06.52sec.

Britain also just missed out on a medal when they finished fourth in the 4x100m men's freestyle relay. Australia took the gold in 3min 11.21sec, ahead of the Netherlands and Sweden, with Britain clocking 3min 14.49sec.

## All Black power proves too much for Irish boys

BY JOHN KENNEDY

IRELAND'S ATTEMPT to retain their World Junior Championship title ended in a 21-15 defeat to New Zealand at the Brewery Field, Bridgend, last night.

The Kiwis, taking part in the 32-nation tournament for the first time, clinched a place in Sunday's final with a commanding display of discipline and dynamic rugby.

The young All Blacks carried too much fire power and pace behind, though the Irish refused to buckle and kept plugging away to the end.

But the well-marshalled New Zealand defence restricted Ireland to penalty goals for all their points, fly-half Jeremy Staunton landing five to keep his side in contention.

By contrast, New Zealand treated the ball in hand on numerous occasions, with their wings, Junior Muianga and Gerard Fasauulu, and full-back Shannon Paku, devastating runners from deep.

fence apart and Paku was up in the line to send Fasauulu hurtling over for his second try.

Kiwi back-chat cost them dearly when the 10 metres they needlessly conceded turned a penalty into Staunton's range and the No 10 was on target from 40 metres out for Flutey to respond in kind in injury time. A break by Staunton was the early second-half tonic Ireland needed and the fly-half then landed a straightforward penalty to close the gap to a single point.

However, a collapsed scrum cost the Irish three more points from a Flutey penalty goal and they effectively finished it as soon as Paku went over for their third try.

There was still time for Staunton to land his fifth penalty and for Mark Meenan to launch a thrilling counter-attack in the final minutes but New Zealand's discipline held for them to reach the final at the first time of asking.

A superb break by fly-half Riki Flutey tore the Irish de-

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# Defiant Hartson believes Welsh can still qualify

WALES MAY have experienced nothing but disappointment against the Swiss in Zurich on Wednesday night but, according to John Hartson, their hopes of qualifying for Euro 2000 are far from over.

The Wimbleton striker, who has yet to score a goal in 1999, finally made his international comeback after a year's absence from the Welsh squad. And he believes that Wales can still pull off two surprises in June when they face Italy and Denmark in the space of five days.

BY PAUL WALKER

Hartson was brought on for the last 20 minutes as Wales went down 2-0 in the Letzigrund Stadium and surrendered second place to their hosts in Group One. However, with Belarus drawing away to the group leaders, Italy, the equation is wide open again.

Hartson said: "It's not all over; we can still qualify. We had such high hopes when we came out for the game; the preparation has been excellent and

the spirit really special. Everyone is really disappointed but also determined to put it right in the next two games."

Wednesday night's results have tightened up the group and leave any one of Switzerland, Wales or Denmark with a chance of reaching the play-offs.

Hartson said: "It was terrible to lose the way we did to the Swiss - so much seemed to go against us with our goalkeeper, Paul Jones, getting injured, and later having a goal disallowed. Now the Swiss are in the

driving seat after winning two games in five days, just like we did back in October when we beat Denmark and Belarus.

"They will think they are favourites for the runners-up spot. But things can change very quickly in this group, as we have already seen."

Another disappointment for Wales is that Robbie Savage's booking will rule him out of the trip to Bologna on 5 June.

Northern Ireland's Iain Dowie knows his hopes of playing in the finals of a major

championship are finally over. Throughout his nine-year international career the veteran striker has always harboured ambitions of one day competing in a World Cup or European Championship.

Euro 2000 was his last chance to fulfil those dreams, but Wednesday night's goalless draw against Moldova in Chisinau has all but put paid to Irish chances of qualification.

They now stand fourth in the Group Three, four points behind the joint leaders, Ger-

many and Turkey, with just five points from five games.

"It will be a real disappointment not to get to the finals of a championship and I know that's not going to happen now," he admitted. "It would have been nice if we could have kept the group alive against Moldova. We now have to go and beat Turkey at home, beat Germany away and beat Finland away.

"It's not totally beyond us, but it's a bit of a pipe-dream. The three points would have

kept the pot bubbling, but to be fair, now the fire has probably gone out. Of course we'll keep going until it's mathematically impossible not to qualify.

"We want to get as many points as we can to help our seeding for the World Cup draw."

Dowie, who remains just one goal short of equalising Colin Clarke's Northern Ireland record of 13, is not ready to hang up his boots just yet. Despite his 34 years, the Queen's Park Rangers striker remains Northern Ireland's main forward and he will not

turn his back on the manager, Lawrie McMenemy, while he still needs him.

"If Lawrie ever needs me I will always play," he said. "If I feel I'm letting anyone down - and I don't think anybody could accuse me of that in these last two games against Germany and Moldova - I will be the first to say so. Likewise if Lawrie decides it's time to move on to fresher pastures, I will accept that because I have a great relationship with Lawrie and he's been top class."

# McAllister's rough ride hurts Brown

GARY McALLISTER'S international career, which has brought him 57 caps and has seen him become Scotland's outstanding player of the 1990s, hangs in the balance today as Craig Brown considers his response to the home supporters' booing of his captain during Wednesday's 2-1 home defeat by the Czech Republic.

The setback at Celtic Park effectively ended the Scots' hopes of reaching Euro 2000 as winners of Group Nine. Qualification via the play-offs for second-placed sides now appears their most realistic route to the finals. But whatever twists remain in the campaign, the Scotland manager intimated yesterday that McAllister might not be around to influence events.

"Gary McAllister is not a quitter," Brown said, as perplexed by the treatment of the Coventry playmaker as he was angered and saddened. "However, he wouldn't be the first player to say: 'Enough is enough'."

Brown continued: "I have to make a decision in terms of the team. The individual is important and I have always been loyal, but it is a team game, and I have to take hard decisions with that in mind.

"Out of respect, I would not make that decision without first consulting the player. People assume nowadays that footballers are just wealthy and big-headed, but they are ordinary people. I'm conscious of the fact Gary has family who will have been very hurt by the criticism."

Brown, who discovered McAllister had left the stadium

by the time he finished his post-match press conference, plans to discuss the situation with him over the weekend. While Scotland have few enough players of his experience and quality, Brown may decide it would be in the interests of the individual and the team if he were no longer considered.

The jeering started around the hour mark after McAllister lost possession with the Czechs 2-0 up. The former Leeds player, making his comeback for his country after a 15-month absence during which he missed the World Cup finals due to a cruciate-ligament injury, looked shocked. He was soon substituted for what Brown termed "purely tactical reasons".

The abuse was all the more disappointing, said Brown, because McAllister invariably demonstrates leadership and commitment. Moreover, he does not hide when, as on Wednesday, he is below par: "Gary always wants the ball and tries to be creative. He never takes the soft option."

Gordon Strachan, his club manager, first noticed the vilification when Coventry played a friendly at Dunfermline. "What right do these people have to do that? What have they ever done for Scottish football? If you put them all together, their patriotism wouldn't equal Gary's," he said, revealing that McAllister often joined up with the Scotland squad carrying knocks that would prompt most players to drop out.

Brown, although justifiably censored by the form of certain members of a new generation, notably Neil McCann and David Hopkin, would be advised not to bow to ignorance and intolerance by acting in haste over McAllister.

He is not the first to bear

the brunt of the fans' frustrations; remarkable as it may now seem, Kenny Dalglish was once singled out. Nor, argue those who have not noticed that the era of Baxter, Bremner and Celtic's Lisbon Lions has long since ended, is he the most exciting, aggressive or typically "Scottish" of players.

Yet he has few equals in combining industry and invention - among his compatriots, only John Collins comes close technically - and it is difficult to know what he has done to offend people. Some suggest it was having a penalty saved by David Seaman against England at Euro 96. If so, his detractors have highly selective memories as well as petty minds. When Scotland next received a spot-kick, in Belarus, he had the "bottle" to score the only goal of a match critical to their prospects of going to France 98.

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Scotland's Gary McAllister (left) tangies with Tomas Votava of the Czech Republic on Wednesday

# Poland facing the threat of Euro 2000 expulsion



Serbian Sasa Drakulic makes his point after scoring in a South Korean league match on Wednesday AP

POLAND HAVE been ordered by Fifa, football's world governing body, to resolve a dispute between the country's sports ministry and football association within the next week.

If England's Euro 2000 qualifying group rivals fail to settle the long-running internal wrangle by 8 April, the maximum possible penalty would be the suspension of the national association and possible expulsion from the Euro 2000 qualifying stages. However, Fifa, which could also simply impose a fine, is unwilling to discuss the likely outcome.

The dispute, which dates back to last summer, centres around the Polish FA's unwillingness to organise new democratic elections after

months of alleged mismanagement - something the sports ministry had requested. On 12 March, Fifa's executive committee ordered the Polish FA to hold elections as soon as possible, only to be told that these would not take place until the end of next year.

The world governing body therefore stepped up the pressure on the Polish FA on 26 March by setting a deadline of next Thursday, by which time a date for elections must be set.

The dispute, which dates back to last summer, centres around the Polish FA's unwillingness to organise new democratic elections after

the conflict in the Balkans, which adjoins Hungary, but an Embassy spokesman said suggestions of a possible postponement of the friendly game have emanated from Britain.

"We have not heard anything here at all," the spokesman said. "The people here are quite excited about seeing England play here. There have been no calls for the game to be called off. It is safe to travel to Budapest and there is no problem here."

Yugoslavia's football association has suspended its domestic league programme in the wake of the Nato air strikes, but insists the national team will not be thrown out of the European Championship.

"We cannot play football while

there is bombing going on so we will not be playing this weekend," the Yugoslav FA secretary, Branko Bulatovic, said yesterday.

He added that Yugoslavia would remain in the European Championship qualifying competition despite speculation that military activity in the area would force a re-think by Uefa of the European governing body.

Uefa has so far postponed six matches in the region involving Yugoslavia and neighbouring teams, fuelling reports that the country would be unable to resume its qualifying campaign.

Yugoslavia's football association has suspended its domestic league programme in the wake of the Nato air strikes, but insists the national team will not be thrown out of the European Championship.

As West Ham prepared yesterday for their visit to Villa Park, Harry Redknapp, never afraid to take a gamble on a controversial player, revealed how he once tried to sign Stan Collymore for West Ham. The Villa striker will be missing from today's game after being admitted to a clinic for the rest of the season suffering from clinical depression.

"I was looking at Stan for a very long time," said Redknapp. "He was playing for Crystal Palace reserves and was available for £50,000. I must have watched him a dozen times."

"Then I sent Frank Lampard to have a look at him and in the end I decided against buying him. He moved on to Southend soon after - so look at the money I've lost out on!"

# Patmore the pride of England's semi-pros Villa's InterToto option

A FIRST-HALF goal from burly Yeovil Town striker, earned England's semi-professional international team a 1-1 draw with the Netherlands in Tuesday's friendly in Genemuiden.

The result, which followed last month's 4-1 win over Italy at Hayes, means that the England side have yet to taste defeat this season. They will be seeking to extend that record in the campaign's third and last international, against Wales at St Albans City on Sunday, 23 May.

The squad for the annual game against the Welsh will also represent the Football Association in a fixture against Scotland's Highland League XI on Friday, 21 May, at Cheltenham United. Among the play-

BY RUPERT METCALF

ers hoping to take part in those two matches will be three men who answered late call-ups to face the Dutch this week.

A series of injuries meant that John Owens, the England manager, was unable to re-select the side which beat the Italians. The experienced Cheltenham Town midfielder, Mark Yates, was replaced by Yeovil's captain, Steve Stott, while another Yeovil player, Murray Fishlock, came in for another man from Cheltenham, Dale Watkins. Nunaton Borough's Barry Williams stood in for Simon Wormull of Dover Athletic.

Patmore had already found the net with a fifth-minute header, which was disallowed for pushing, before he gave England the lead in the 34th minute. Again he used his head, to meet a cross from Doncaster Rovers' right-back Simon Shaw at the far post. The home team equalised in the 51st minute when a long shot was deflected past the Cheltenham goalkeeper, Steve Book.

Owens felt that England had done enough to win. "We controlled the first half, apart from a 15-minute spell," he said, "and although the second half was more even, as the Dutch were more positive, we still created the more promising openings."

Owens was particularly pleased with Patmore, whose goal was his first at interna-

tional level, and his striking partner, Neil Grayson, of Cheltenham. "They make a very effective pair," the manager said. "When you're constructing a team you look for particular attitudes and a mix of qualities, and they complement each other very well."

Grayson and his Cheltenham team-mates will be concentrating on club rather than international football over the Easter weekend. In one of the biggest Nationwide Conference games of the season, the Gloucestershire side travelled to Northamptonshire to take on Rushden & Diamonds.

While Cheltenham were winning 1-0 at Emley last weekend to reach the semi-finals of the FA Umbro Trophy, they slipped

from first to third place in the Conference as a result of Rushden's 0-0 draw at Kettering. Rushden now lead the league on goal difference from Kettering, with Cheltenham just one point adrift.

Cheltenham have one game in hand on Rushden and four in hand on Kettering, so a win will be vital tomorrow for the Nene Park outfit. "The boys are ready for it," the Diamonds' manager, Brian Talbot, said. "It should be a full house for us [around 6,000] and we're looking forward to it."

On Monday Cheltenham entertain Kidderminster Harriers while Rushden travel to Woking. Kettering are away to Leek Town tomorrow and at home to Stevenage Borough two days later.

ASTON VILLA may apply to take part in the InterToto Cup after Uefa's decision to award a European spot to the FA Cup semi-finalists, Newcastle.

Villa who go into action today against West Ham, are 10 points adrift of the fourth spot which is needed to guarantee qualification via the Premier League. The Villa chairman, Doug Ellis, needs to inform Europe's governing body of Villa's interest by 7 April, but the club's manager, John Gregory, would be a reluctant participant - it would mean starting the season in July and is to have further talks with Ellis over the weekend.

Ellis said: "Because the start of the season is so early it is not too much different from going on tour. We had planned to do that between 17 and 24 July and

could play in this competition instead."

Gregory said: "Europe is a minimum requirement for a club of Villa's stature. It has been a necessity to qualify and the club have been a regular [in European competition] for the past five or six years. Ideally you wouldn't want to take part but the InterToto Cup represents a route into Europe if we fail to do it through the league."

"I suppose you could say it is impossible to turn down because of the money that Europe generates and the carrot of attracting players. Teams who have taken part in the InterToto Cup have gone on to have good runs in the Uefa Cup. Bordeaux got to the finals two years ago and Bologna are in this season's semi-finals."

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# Wigan boon as Betts adds extra option

AS CLUBS go back to the good old, bad old days of a double programme of Bank Holiday fixtures, it is Wigan, who stage Central Park's last ever Good Friday derby against St Helens today, who have the reinforcements grouping on the horizon.

Games on either side of the weekend will test the depth and quality of squads, but Wigan have the boost of having Denis Betts ready to return against Wakefield on Monday. The Great Britain second-rower, out since rupturing a knee last season, has come safely through 20 minutes of a reserve game against Saints. With Tony Smith also waiting in the wings, Wigan are one team growing in strength over Easter.

The same, however, cannot be said of Saints, who have something of a forward crisis

building up. Vila Matutina and Chris Joynt are both likely to miss today's noon kick-off, while Andy Spencer and Glen Arcole are fit to return via the bench, from which Anthony Seibold could make his first appearance for the club.

It is also a highly significant day for the Gateshead Thunder. After losing two opening matches, against Leeds and St Helens, that they could not have been seriously expected to win, the Challenge Cup final.

## RUGBY LEAGUE

By DAVE HADFIELD

Junkers are likely to play a part.

Today is the first test for the heightened profile the London Broncos hope to gain from qualifying for Wembley in such unforgettable style last weekend. The club reports long spells of rain, but the benefit from their achievement depends on maintaining their form between now and the start of May. The only unbeaten side in Britain entertain Hull today and Hudson Smith is injured.

Salford, whose latest crisis

was precipitated by defeat at Wakefield two weeks ago, field a much-changed team at home to Warrington. Martin Crompton is dropped in favour of Carl Briggs at scrum-half, winger Mark Johnson is also left out and Hudson Smith is injured.

With club disciplinary measures still hanging over him, a had defeat could leave the Salford coach, Andy Gregory, on even thinner ice.

Castleford must get over the bitter disappointment of their semi-final defeat when Halifax visit tonight, while Sheffield and Huddersfield will both be seeking their first points of the season at the Don Valley Stadium.

New Zealand are insisting that Richie Blackmore, who missed Leeds' game at Bradford last night with a recurrence of his groin injury, must play for them in their Test in Sydney eight days before the Challenge Cup final.

## France guard against Russia

GER LENNEME, the French arch, was a big help to his side's 3-0 win over Armenia last weekend, but the team's preparation for next European Championships, due to take place in Russia, has a single

The world champion has been held up in the Seine by a drug gang, who have seized both men and their equipment. While the team's qualification for next year's tournament has been assured, the group's morale has suffered.

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# SPORT

KINGSTON'S CUP CRUSADE P25 | MASTER STROKES FROM FLINTOFF P26

## Duval takes a grip in the rain

DAVID DUVAL's preparations for next week's US Masters went awry yesterday. It was not so much the early morning fog which delayed play in the first round of the BellSouth Classic for two hours, more that once visibility had been regained the saturated nature of the TPC at Sugarloaf course at Sugarloaf course took things into her own hands with Wednesday's rain, which con-

### GOLF

BY ANDY FARRELL

in Duluth, Georgia

tinued throughout the night. Soft and receptive, the greens were back to how most of the pros prefer them. Duval was as ready as anyone to take advantage and after going to the turn in one under par, he hit birdies at the 10th, 11th and 12th.

But the conditions were the exact opposite of what the new world No 1 was hoping for with Augusta in mind. "It is a scheduling thing more than anything

else why I decided to play here," Duval, a graduate of nearby Georgia Tech University, said. "But if you are going to play the week before Augusta, this is a great place to play. You have the big, undulating greens and they will be quick."

Instead, Duval had to adjust to a slower pace after coping with the granite-like surfaces last week at the Players' Championship and which will again be a feature at the Masters. Conditions at Sawgrass, the US tour's headquarters where Duval's winning score of three under was the highest in the 18

years the event has been played there, were too much for some players. A players' meeting during the event appointed a committee to look at the way courses are set up.

"The feedback we got before was to make the greens harder and faster," Davis Love, a member of the US tour's policy board, said. "Now, guys are going back the other way, saying they're too firm and fast. No matter what you do, you can't make everybody happy."

While Duval seeks his first major championship next week, his father, Bob, who recorded his maiden win on the Seniors' Tour in a remarkable double for the Duval family on Sunday, could get there first. Bob plays in the Tradition tournament, the first major on the Seniors' circuit, this week and, after watching his son for the first two days at the Masters, the PGA Seniors' Championship in two weeks' time.

"If I could win a major before David, it would be great," said Bob Duval, who lost \$100 (£54) to his son in a week of practice a fortnight ago. "Lately, he has been armed and dangerous every week."

Duval's biggest problem this week is coping with the affects of such an intense week. "Last week was so mentally taxing it felt like playing two or three tournaments," he said. "This week seems to be going so quickly. Getting ready to play was the hardest part. I haven't practised so much and I'll get away from the course as quickly as I can. You have to make sure you remain fresh and that you don't get to the point where you dread it all."

Quite when, or if, Nick Faldo will ever get to that point is anyone's guess. Prior to the event

Faldo was optimistic in his words, as he has always remained throughout a slump that has seen him drop to 97th in the world, 21st in Europe and 11th in Britain. But at the sixth hole came a sign that there are lasting effects from his disqualification from the Players' Championship.

On Sunday, Faldo let Corey

Pavin inadvertently talk him in to a wrong drop, an error which was only discovered on the next hole. On this occasion, Faldo's ball ended up in casual water. In taking a free drop, the ball came to rest on a line denoting an area of ground under repair.

With the option to play the ball as it lay or drop again, Faldo was about to play it again when a fellow player, Billy Andrade, intervened. Taking no chances, Faldo waited as the others completed the hole for a referee to arrive, who confirmed that the Englishman had acted correctly.

Faldo was one under after 11 holes, while Ian Woosnam did similarly while playing the course the other way round. Colin Montgomerie and Jose Maria Olazabal were among the late afternoon starters.

## Hotel owner steps in to save Oxford

THE LONDON hotelier Firoz Kassam yesterday stepped in to rescue First Division Oxford United.

Kassam has acquired the controlling shareholding in the club from the former chairman Robin Herd following successful negotiations with Oxford City Council over proposals to complete United's half-built new stadium.

The club said in statement: "Mr Kassam is delighted with the progress that has been made with Oxford City Council regarding the proposed development of the Minchery Farm site."

Oxford's new 15,000-seater stadium has remained derelict since work stopped two years ago following a dispute over payments. The Football League chief executive Richard Scudamore said he was delighted that Oxford had been saved.

Rangers have signed the United States captain, Claudio Reyna, in a £2.25m deal, but face an anxious wait to discover when he can play for them. The Glasgow club agreed terms with two clubs for Reyna in a complicated deal. They are paying the German club Wolfsburg £250,000 compensation for the loss of the midfield player who has been with them on loan this season.

There is an additional cost of £2m to fellow Germans Bayer Leverkusen, who held the 25-year-old's registration. They

### FOOTBALL

BY ALAN NIXON

will be paid the money shortly. However, both the Scottish Football Association and the Scottish Football League were in discussions yesterday about whether the transfer was completed before the deadline at midnight on Wednesday.

They are paying particular attention to the situation because of the administration error surrounding Jorge Cadete's move to Celtic two years ago which led to the departure of the SFA secretary, Jim Farry.

Macclesfield have denied any approach for their manager Sammy McIlroy from Nottingham Forest. The former Northern Ireland international had been linked with a move to the City Ground to replace Roy Atkinson at the end of the season.

Southampton have been given a £2.5m grant by the Football Trust to help build their new stadium. The Premiership club were finally given permission for a new 32,000 seater stadium at St Mary's, just outside the city centre, and applied to the Trust to assist them.

The Tottenham defender Ramon Vega will miss the rest of the season after fracturing a bone in his foot in the League Cup final success at Wembley.

Brown's dilemma, page 28



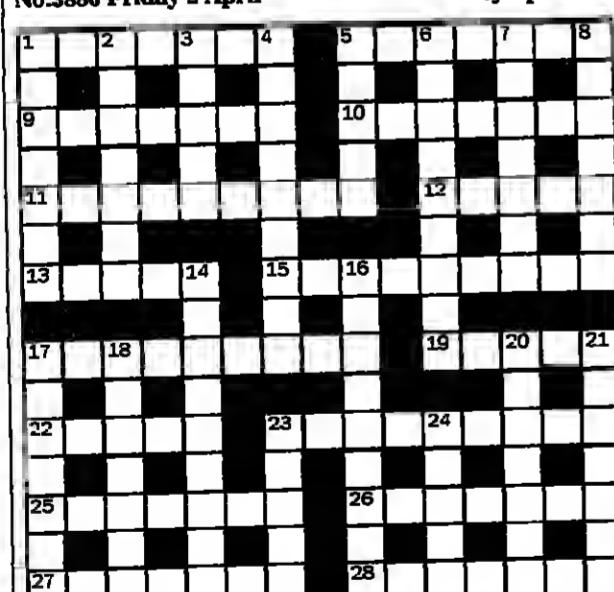
Greg Rusedski serves to his team-mate Tim Henman at the NIA, Birmingham, in preparation for the Davis Cup tie against the United States Alex Livesey/Allsport

### THE FRIDAY CROSSWORD

No.3886 Friday 2 April

by Spurius

Thursday's solution



- ACROSS**
- Old jokes by baron about officer's pipe (7)
  - Getting experience of carefully planned raid by reserve force (7)
  - Blocking Eastern Mediterranean railway, a large stone (7)
  - Volume control (4-3)
  - Ride up and down, if lifts are operating (5-4)
  - Organic compound which spells the end for a number of cities (5)
  - Clergyman going round to building society to have words (5)
  - Quality required to change mad policy? (9)
  - Drug-user's ship put to sea (9)
  - Simple, as ABC is? (5)
- DOWN**
- His sisters and uncle appeared on stage (7)
  - Leave space, perhaps, for stage direction (2-5)
  - Conflict about lecturer's money (5)
  - Unable to work, e.g., in

## England look for the profit with good chance of returns

ONE HUNDRED years of Davis Cup history landed on the heads of the United States team here yesterday. Fortunately it was only a poster that came unstuck on a wall as the players were being interviewed in the National Indoor Arena, where the tie against Britain in the first round of the World Group starts today.

The American media have tended to play down the significance of the occasion, particularly since Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi ruled themselves out. Jim Courier and Todd Martin contributed to the visitors' perceived lack of intensity yesterday.

"For us it's pretty much business as usual," said Courier, America's No 2, who opens the proceedings this afternoon against Tim Henman, the British No 1. "It's a first for Great Britain [in the World Group] in a while; it's not a first for us," added Martin, America's No 1, who plays Greg Rusedski in today's other singles match. "Apart from being the 100th anniversary, this is just a first round for us. We're playing a very good team. I think we're prepared and used to it. We've got to do our job as we do any other week."

The reward for victory over the next three days is a match against either Australia or Zimbabwe in the quarter-finals after Wimbledon. Britain would

### TENNIS

BY JOHN ROBERTS

in Birmingham

have to travel, whereas the United States have been granted a home match in Boston to mark the centenary, whether they are in the last eight or involved in a qualifying tie.

It would be a huge mistake to believe that the Americans are as blasé as they sometimes sound. They are here to win, and could not care less about absent friends, whether they be players or journalists. We're here for ourselves, our team and our country," Martin declared passionately. "We're not here for the media."

Martin's determination is underlined by his willingness to play even though he still feels twinges from a stomach muscle he strained during a match

against Petr Korda at the Australian Open in January. "I've gone through some fairly bad days, but so far I've felt very good this week," he said. "I'm optimistic for the weekend, but very confident for tomorrow. My only concern right now is how well I recover from Friday."

It was difficult to follow Martin's reasoning, however, when he added that the disability "only affected my serve, so it's not a huge liability". Serving and returning are the crucial elements of indoor tennis, particularly when players with the attacking style of Greg Rusedski and Henman are involved.

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as well as in tomorrow's doubles against Courier and Alex O'Brien (the first contest between the pairs) as they did in winning the Guardian Direct Cup at Battersea in February.

In spite of the imponderables, Britain have a wonderful opportunity to score a memorable victory, although the tension may not be over until the last ball of Sunday's concluding match between Rusedski and Courier.

Martin made an interesting observation, saying that the court would play faster in matches than in practice, because "with all the people in the stands the temperature will be hotter". It certainly will, and the natural enthusiasm a capacity crowd of 9,320 on each of the three days will be amplified by plastic noise-makers handed to children by the Lawn Tennis Association. There will be thousands of rattles, if not Sir Simon Rattle in person.

More tennis, page 27

### HOW THE DAVIS CUP RIVALS SHAPE UP

#### HEAD TO HEAD

Tim Henman v Jim Courier (Courier leads 1-0)
1997 Doha (concrete).....F Courier 7-5 6-7 6-2
Tim Henman v Todd Martin (Martin leads 3-1)
1994 Queen's (grass).....R22 Martin 6-3 6-4
1996 Wimbledon (grass).....OF Martin 6-7 6-6 6-4
1996 US Open (concrete).....R22 Henman 6-3 7-6 6-4
1998 Stockholm (concrete).....SF Martin 6-4 6-1 6-2
Greg Rusedski v Todd Martin (Martin leads 4-1)
1991 Tokyo (concrete).....SF Martin 6-6 3-6 6-3
1994 Queen's (grass).....R16 Martin 6-7 5-7 6-4
1995 Memphis (concrete).....OF Martin 6-7 5-7 6-4
1996 Sydney (concrete).....SF Martin 7-5 7-6
1997 Vienna (carpet).....OF Rusedski 6-1 6-7 6-3

#### ORDER OF PLAY

Today [1pm]
(GB player first)
Tim Henman v Jim Courier
Greg Rusedski v Todd Martin
Tomorrow [4pm]
Henman and Rusedski v Courier and Alex O'Brien
Sunday [2pm]
Henman v Martin
Rusedski v Courier

# FRIDAY REVIEW

**COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • PLUS THE INFORMATION DAILY**



# Why I hate Easter

**A**s an agnostic, I'm not at all sure that I should be saying anything at all about the Christian festival of Easter. We are living through paradoxical times as far as religious beliefs are concerned. Indeed, when it comes to considering Easter I find myself screwed to the sticking-point of what my "agnosticism" really means. It's all very well hiding behind "I don't know" when it comes to the large-scale metaphysical underpinnings of religion: Does God exist? (I don't know.) What happens when we die? (I don't know.) Are we brought into this world for a transcendent purpose? (Once again - I don't know.)

However, at the level of everyday ethical decisions—should the whereabouts of sex offenders be made known publicly? Should government seek to influence the nature of the family?—such “I don’t knows” really do become offensive to the pro-family policies of all stripes.

"When you're lost in the rain in Juarez and it's Easter time too/ And your gravity fails, and negativity don't pull you through..." Bob Dylan aka Robert Zimmerman - the secular-Jew-turned-fundamentalist-Christian-turned-orthodox-Jew, whose Zen grappling with religion and religiosity lies as near to the core of the poetics of the post-bomb 20th century as any other body of literature - speaks for me in this cold, awful, vernal-equinox, as he voices for us all the unnaturalness of the rest of the emotional year. The

never seen spring turn so quickly into autumn."

I hate Eastertime – and, by extension, I hate Easter. Not that I really know anything of Easter itself at all. There's a Venn intersection between Radio 4, the laity of the Church of England and the rest of what laughably calls itself the fourth estate in this country, which means that the rituals of the organised and semi-state-sanctioned religions receive a vastly disproportionate amount of consideration. At the exhausted fag-end of a century that has seen so many human lives snuffed out in such physically obliterating ways – conflagrated to ash; gassed to ordure; machine-gunned to pulp; exploded to inhumanly less than the sum of their parts – it would seem to me that to seek redemption in the 40 extra days between Easter and Pentecost putatively allotted, 2,000

years ago, to a self-proclaimed Messiah is - how can I put it with even a scintilla of respect for people's beliefs? - utterly ridiculous.

I've now been to Golgotha. Been to that Unholy Land. There's nothing more risible- and historically disorienting about the environs of Jerusalem than those road signs that read "SODOM 20 KMS". And there's nothing more destructive of the *Star Trek* view of the Resurrection - a peculiar scenario involving a being with amazing powers marooned on a remote, backward planet - than a stroll around that cramped quarter wherein Jesus spent his final mortal hours. In the *Star Trek* view, Jesus is, of course,

Caucasian. Pilate has a toga and laurel-style eyeshade. The Temple priests - the quisling Klingons of their day - have exaggeratedly curled and perfumed beards; unctuous and unguent in one. And everyone observes the most important convention which renders this outlandish primitivism endlessly relevant: they speak Standard - RP even - English.

- RP even - English.  
The cross is plywood - and any way, a criminal from central casting complete with standard-issue of white dhoti, gets to carry the thing. The Way of the Cross is like any picturesque stroll through an ancient medina; the stations are spiritual time clocks; the crucifixion itself is mercifully televisual - when the sign is placed above his head with the dreaded ascription "King of the Jews", it's more in the manner of a title sequence than an abusive, cos-

To complete the teleplay, the garden of Gethsemane is just that, a municipal-cum-Olympian agglomeration of miniature cypresses, gravel paths and well-tended ornamental beds. The womenfolk, who are beautifully, cleanly attired in freshly laundered blue robes with white borders, arrive to make that epoch-creating discovery. Now, at this point in the gospels, it's easy for us cross-legged, nineteen sixties, late baby-boomer, Vietnam-as-TV-spectacle-witnessing kids to understand how it should be that the rock placed at the mouth of the tomb has been rolled to one side. Clearly, like all those bits of other words which are



BY WILL SELF

forever being hefted around by the crew of the Starship Enterprise. this alien- stone is made from polystyrene, or foam rubber, or moulded plastic. Suffice it to say - even a flabby Kirk could've thrust it aside, and we know what a demigod he is.

Yes, I hate Easter, and the very movability of the feast makes it still more hateful - for I never know, in any year, when it will heave into view, freighted down with its groaning cargo of unpleasantness. It's not the Council of Nicaea which bothers me - although as a half-Jew with Catholic children from my first marriage I would seem purpose-built to

my Jewish, and Semitic mouth-brats, along to whatever emperors, prayerful barn happened to be in vicinity when either Christ's birthday or death day fell. What a thankless, graceless task it was for him. Try as he might to enthuse us with the sonorous beauties of the King James Bible, as declaimed by middle-class, middle-aged men in dresses, it was far too late. We had already been claimed by the split infinitive of Star Trek, were already preparing to boldly go into a world where ethics, so far from inhering in every structure of the cosmos, was a matter of personal taste akin to a sicker label, seum into the inside,

riage I would seem purpose-built to respond to doctrinal disputations. Even that half-Jewishness requires some clarification - I mean, is it strictly possible to be half-Jewish? The Jews might well claim me for their own, as my mother certainly was Jewish. But so intent was she on making her entire life a performance act of deracination, that I was uncircumcised not bar mitzvahed, and only ever went to synagogue in

or - of any humour, no matter how black

She had said to me a few weeks before her death: "The greatest thing about being a pessimist is that you're always starting off on the race of life with the understanding that you're bound to lose." Whether this was intended to give any comfort to either her or me I've no idea - since it certainly did neither. In the event her pessimism was of no use anyway: she died utterly unconscious, shoved deep beneath the meniscus of sentience by barbiturate and opiates.

They had admitted her to the University College Hospital, where her oncologist was the consultant, but - wasn't it ever thus? - there were no beds available, and my brother and I had to follow her supine body as it was pushed through the subterranean passageways that connect this central London necropolis, until we rose up in a lift to the Royal Ear. This process was, on reflection, my mother's crucifixion: the cruel, iron

trolley they wheeled her on was bent like a secular cross; in place of the vinegar which was thrust into Christ's mouth by bystanders, nutriments were fed into Mother's arm via a transparent drip; and instead of the Roman legionnaire's sword, thrust into Mother's side were the increasing dosages of diamorphine which ensured that for all time she would remain dead.

would remain dead.  
In mourning my mother - whom I loved very deeply - I went through all the recognised stages of anger, denial and eventual acceptance. Like the disciples, in the darkness

weeks immediately succeeding her death I would see "fake" mothers wandering the streets of London much as she did in life. However, since neither of us believed remotely in the existence of personal immortality (and she in no kind of transcendence whatsoever!), these visitations were mute and hazy. If Mother had felt driven to communicate anything to me from beyond the grave, it would doubtless have been a sardonic remark about the cost of her cremation.

As with so many of the most important and resonant facts about our lives, I have opted to block out the exact date in April when it was that we stood in the plastic cubicle and watched the mutant cells finally push mother out of her own head and into oblivion. So Easter is, for me, for the rest of my life, that time of the year when death comes to visit for a while. Western death: painless, medicalised, and about as ethical as a tooth extraction. It's a pity there are false messiahs - just the way that there are false teeth.

Yes, there will be no resurrection for Mother, just as there will be no resurrection for all the millions upon millions of dead souls that clutter this world of ours, like so much psychic lumber. Yes, they're gone—and they're not coming back.

<b>INSIDE</b>	<b>Letters</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Features</b>
	<b>Leaders and comment</b>	<b>3-5</b>	<b>Science</b>
	<b>Obituaries</b>	<b>6-7</b>	<b>Arts</b>

# MUSIC

This image shows a dark, rectangular object, likely a book cover or a frame, containing faint, illegible markings. The markings appear to be bleed-through from the reverse side of the page, which contains text and diagrams. The overall quality is very poor, with high contrast between the dark background and the lighter, faded text.

# A BETTER TOWN BY NEXT WEEKEND.

Just one application of Evergreen Extra Strength gives you a healthier, greener lawn in just seven days. What's more it helps you get rid of weeds and moss. And when you're done, the whole garden looks better.

**Serbia's obsession**

Sir: The assertion by many "democratic" Serbians that there will be no real peace and stability in the region unless Serbia embarks on the road to democracy is, unfortunately, specious.

In Serbia's free, multi-party and largely fair elections of 1990, the two main Serbian nationalist parties (of which Milosevic's SPS was one) polled 63 per cent of the vote; two years later, at the height of the war in Bosnia, where Serbian forces had displaced over two million Muslims and Croats in under six months – and went on to kill at least 200,000 Bosnians – Milosevic polled 56 per cent in Serbia's presidential election, hardly the record of a dictator.

The sad truth is that no candidate who espoused the admirable values of democracy and a liberalised economy came close to capturing the Serbian public's imagination. That is why, even during the anti-Milosevic demonstrations of 1996 and 1997, the person presented by Serbia's "democrats" as the answer to their country's problems was the ultra-nationalist Vuk Draskovic; members of his Serbian Renewal Movement were actively involved in atrocities in both Croatia and Bosnia, and Draskovic himself now serves in Milosevic's government as Deputy Prime Minister.

Serbia's political culture has been built on what the independent Serbian journalist Stojan Cervic called "the constant, obsessive theme of building a Greater Serbia". This involves "purifying" Serbia by "cleansing" it of non-Orthodox people and "extending" Serbia so that it mirrors the nationalist ideal of encompassing Bosnia, Croatia, Kosovo and the Sandzak, something which can only be accomplished by genocide.

ASAD YAWAR  
Wembley, Middlesex

Sir: Adrian Hastings (letter, 1 April) is right. There is only one anti-Serbian ground force which can have an immediate effect – the KLA. Nato's neutrality ceased when Serbia confirmed its true intentions by its assault on the civilian population. Only ground troops can save the Kosovars and we should supply the KLA with the anti-tank and other weapons they need to fight the Serbs and the communications equipment needed to call in air strikes.

But that can only be a holding operation. The KLA will not defeat the Yugoslav army, nor can it be trusted not to take revenge on Serbian civilians. We learnt in 1939–45 the folly of appeasement and allowing dictators to profit by aggression. We also learnt that under attack any nation rallies to its leaders, however evil they may be. The prospect is horrifying, but if we want peace in Europe it must mean the defeat of Milosevic and his trial. Milosevic must face trial as the greatest war criminal since Hitler and his surrender must be one of Nato's demands. Did we not also learn that the crushing of a dictator does mean his country must take the consequences? I have as much, but no more, sympathy for the Serbs as I had for the Germans when they reaped the whirlwind in 1945.

There must be a downside to such barbaric behaviour as the Serbs have shown. Kosovars can never trust the Serbs again, so Nato should establish the one thing Milosevic most wanted to avoid – an independent Kosovo guaranteed by immediate membership of Nato.

DAVID FAUL

Ramsgate, Kent

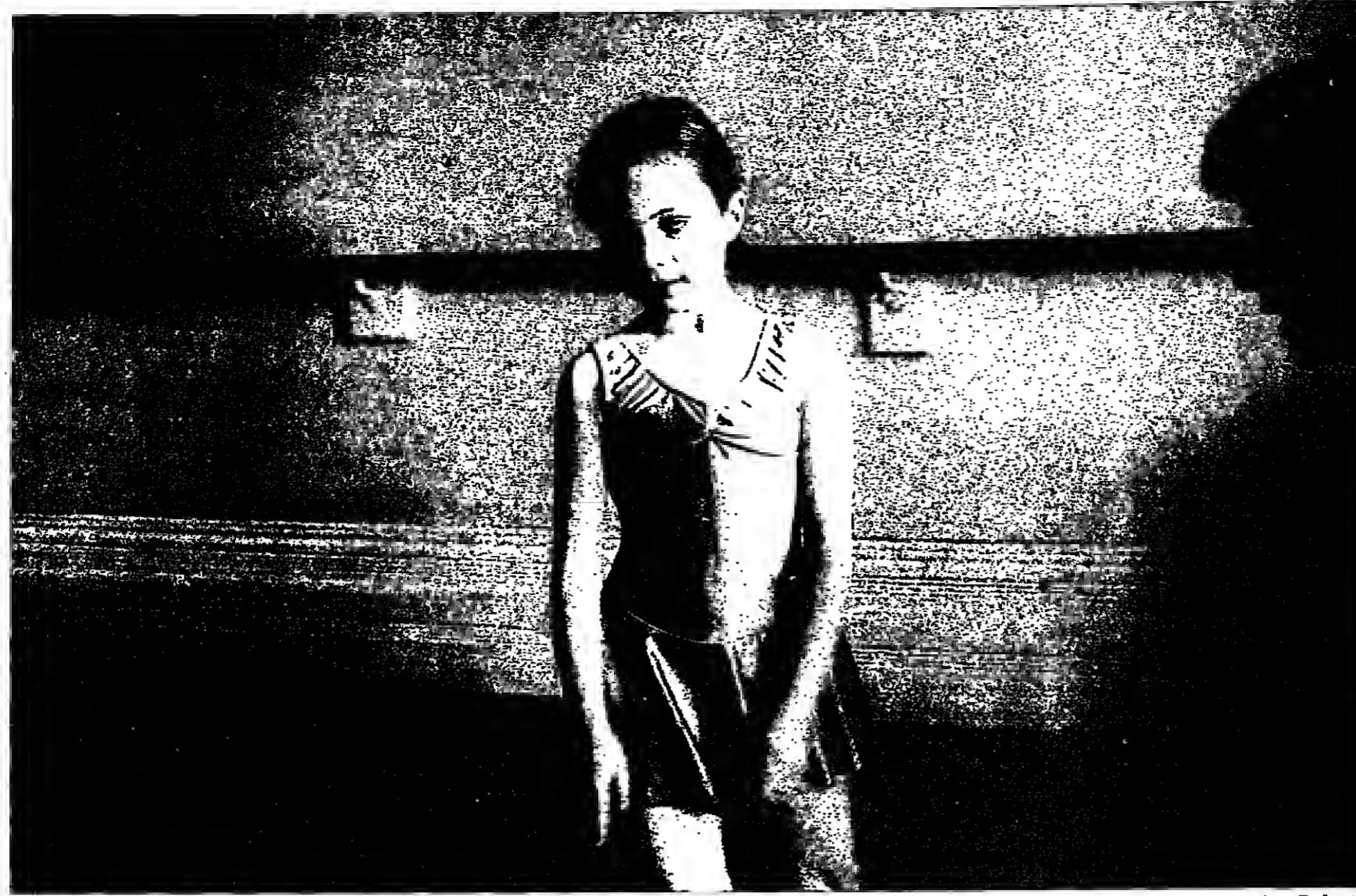
Sir: As a criminal psychologist I believe that Nato has made a dreadful mistake. The psychological profile of people such as Slobodan Milosevic was obvious even to the lay person. Such personality traits do not disappear when confronted – it is usual for them to react in an extreme manner such as we have seen with the heightened ethnic cleansing in Kosovo.

I simply cannot understand how

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address.

Letters may be edited for length and clarity



Ballet School No 5: Felicity, the teacher at the Davies School in Cardiff, whispers encouragement to a young pupil

Ann Doherty

such a miscalculation can have occurred. Confronting a violent personality with an aggressive response coupled with open threats will always spell disaster.

As for the captured American servicemen, I am sure that they would fare better if Nato ceased making ill-thought-out comments about their safety. If I were captured by Mr Milosevic I would sincerely hope that Nato would keep their opinions to themselves lest they should exacerbate the crazed actions of an already borderline personality disorder.

Dr M E ADELE  
Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire

Sir: Can we assume that John Ollis's letter (1 April) was an April Fool's joke? Can he have been so partisan as to call upon Nato, as Christians, to abandon air attacks over Easter, but not notice that the Serbs subscribe to the Christian faith also – and does he imagine that they will cease to burn Kosovar homes and put women and children to death during their own religious festivals?

TONY VINOCOMBE  
Hove, East Sussex

Sir: Fighting forces which cannot be used for fighting are a particular American concept, stemming from the confusion of their anti-colonial politics and the defeat in Vietnam. The British and European approach is different; while nobody wishes to see casualties most people accept that our professional soldiers on joining up have been prepared ultimately to sacrifice their lives, a view widely supported as recently as the Falklands war. The evil in Kosovo cannot be ended without deploying ground troops.

WILLIAM TERRELL  
London, SW6

#### The refugee crisis

Sir: David Aaronovitch writes in favour of ground troops ("Why do these decent folk find it so difficult to support the war?", 1 April), and ridicules the pacifist argument

that Nato brought on the cruelty in Kosovo. Whatever may have been intended, Nato has aggravated the problem, so Nato comrades have a moral duty to help the refugees.

Your editorial asks us to send a few spare pounds for blankets and tents ("The refugees' trail must extend to the shores of Britain", 1 April). Whatever relief supplies are sent, as you say, we have to take in refugees ourselves.

The number of refugees now quoted is 250,000. Maybe by Whitsun 2 million Kosovars will need refuge. I suggest we accept quotas related to our own population. There are 19 Nato member states with a total population of 780 million. We in the UK with 58 million needs to absorb 150,000 people.

It is no good standing on the sidelines urging on bombers and now troops on the ground at vast public expense and the cost of soldiers' lives if the public purse and public opinion are not prepared to cope with the fallout. That means giving "humanitarian assistance" to unfamiliar faces in our towns and villages.

Rather like the War, really. Are we prepared for this?

JOHN DEXTER  
Hythe, Hampshire

Sir: The Government has saved, for a time, uncompetitive jobs in the Midlands in an obsolete plant. Longbridge will undoubtedly absorb further millions before it finally closes. I wonder if they considered an alternative way to spend their £200m: close Longbridge now, and invest heavily in creating new jobs in the global information economy, in Birmingham. This would give the citizens of the Midlands a toehold in the economy of the future, to compensate for the ball and chain of the past.

MATTHEW RHODES  
Leamington Spa, Warwickshire

Sir: Your report "Straw regrets Immigration Service chaos" (23 March) highlighted an ongoing concern about the resources available to the Immigration Service and the entrenched attitudes within it.

We write, as chairs of the community and urban affairs committee, and the home affairs committee, of the Church of England's Board for Social Responsibility, to express concern about the deplorable situation at the immigration and nationality directorate's Croydon office.

The backlog of cases has been an openly acknowledged disgrace for some time. The present chaos not only causes great distress and frustration to the vulnerable people who are at the mercy of this erratic system but calls into question the feasibility of many of the proposals and targets in legislation currently passing through Parliament.

Decent, humane, efficient treatment is the right of all who deal with branches of the Civil Service. The remedy of the present situation, computers and backlog, must be the priority before the proposed reforms are enacted. Consistency throughout the Home Office and public services is vital if the forms of racism highlighted by

the Macpherson report are to be overcome.

+ROGER BARKING  
(The Right Rev Roger Bainsbury, Bishop of Barking)  
Professor RAMAN BEDI  
+ROBERT LINCOLN  
(The Right Rev Robert Hardy, Bishop of Lincoln)  
Church House, London SW1

#### Falklands' fate

Sir: With the greatest respect to Ambassador Pfirter (letter, 27 March), he introduces a red herring into the Falklands debate by comparing the relative distances of the Islands from Argentina and Britain. As he will know, geographical proximity has never been a valid reason for claiming sovereignty; if it were, many of today's international boundaries would have to be redrawn.

Mr Pfirter bases the Argentine case on the primacy of territorial integrity which, it is claimed, takes precedence over the right of self-determination. He assumes that the Falkland Islands are an integral part of Argentina, despite the facts that Argentina did not exist when the British landed there and that the only indigenous population on the Islands consisted of seals, seabirds and

penguins, all of which have thrived under British occupation and administration.

We had a squabble with the Spanish over the sovereignty of the Islands in 1771, but the Spanish monarch climbed down, disavowed the action taken by his Governor of La Plata and made restitution of the British settlement.

Looking ahead, Mr Pfirter disappointed me by sticking to the traditional Argentine line that it is everyone's "best interest" to resolve the sovereignty issue through direct negotiations between Britain and Argentina. I fail to see how it can be in the islanders' "best interest" to be excluded from negotiations on their own future.

Si REX HUNT  
Chairman, The Falkland Islands Association  
Sunningdale, Berkshire

#### No dumb belles

Sir: I was stunned by Sue Arnold's column "Girls are too sensible for sport" (31 March). It conveyed an attitude to exercise that ignored solid medical evidence.

Regular exercise has been shown to reduce the incidence of diabetes, lower the risk of bowel cancer and reduce the risk of high blood pressure. Those of us that regularly exercise and compete in sport can also point to reduced stress, lowered heart rate, greater self-esteem and improved weight control.

I'm sure many women will find offensive the comment that sporty women are deeply unattractive.

The United Kingdom and the rest of the western world face an epidemic of diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease as a consequence of obesity and inactivity. Our genome is capable of much more than this, certainly more than a "gentle glow". For the sake of your health, get out, feel the wind in your face and enjoy the endorphin high.

Dr DAVE NICHOLLS  
Sports Medicine Practitioner  
Fen Ditton, Cambridgeshire

#### Choosing to die

Sir: Whilst Jeremy Lawrence is right in his assertion that support for euthanasia declines with advancing age ("Choosing not to go gently", 30 March), this decline, in polls conducted by both NOP and British Social Attitudes, is small. Even then there is a very substantial majority of older people in support.

Jeremy Lawrence declares that he is not against euthanasia, but seemingly only if it is not called as such and is carried out at the doctor's discretion. As long as the doctor says he did not intend to kill the patient all is well. Apart from the hypocrisy required of the doctor, often this is an act of paternalism (non-voluntary euthanasia). I believe it is vitally important that the patient is the decision-maker.

Whilst I recognise that many people would wish to cling to life even in the face of extreme suffering, some do not. Why shouldn't we have the choice? The assurance that we do not have to face suffering and indignity at the end of life would be a great comfort to us all and would be, I suggest, very life-enhancing.

JOHN OLIVER  
General Secretary  
The Voluntary Euthanasia Society  
London W8

Sir: You state (leading article, 27 March) that legislation to permit euthanasia in Britain should have guidelines to protect older people (why only older) from the pressure of relatives. And yet you go on to say that the co-operation and approval of the family are essential. The latter may surely lead to the former.

You say, "We must allow people to die", presumably meaning by "voluntary" euthanasia, and yet you go on to support (albeit with "safeguards") involuntary euthanasia. You say it is impossible to make an objective judgement about another person's quality of life and yet appear to support the ending of it.

Your leader is contradictory, dangerous and immoral.

PHILIP J S CROME  
Harrow, Middlesex

#### Lack of evidence

Sir: You reported that Mr Amit Sharma, 19, received damages from the Metropolitan Police Service and that this a uchronly did not uphold his complaint ("Trio awarded police damages", 27 March). Our member Lorna Whyte could not possibly have upheld the complaint.

Mr Sharma's solicitor failed to return the medical disclosure form which would have enabled the investigating officer to obtain a statement from the doctor who treated Mr Sharma. Furthermore, Mr Sharma's companions, who may have witnessed the incident, failed to come forward despite the best efforts of the investigating officer.

On the basis of the available evidence, Mr Sharma's complaint against the officer could not possibly be proved "beyond reasonable doubt".

It is unjustifiable for Mr Sadiq Khan to criticise the police complaints system when he fails to provide the vital evidence needed to prove the complaint. Many lawyers, even those who are critical of the system, give us considerable assistance. In one recent case, seven police officers were required to resign as a result of co-operation from the complainants' solicitor, which enabled the PCA-supervised inquiry to gather the necessary evidence.

P W MOORHOUSE  
Chairman, Police Complaints Authority  
London SW1

#### Yellow peril

Sir: As the US seems to have but one means of enforcing its foreign policy, whom will they be bombing next? Turkey over the Kurds, Sri Lanka over the Tamils, Indonesia over East Timor, or even Britain over bananas?

P N THOMPSON  
Leicester

## Read all about it – Queen Mother extradited to Spain!

HOW WELL do you follow the news? Ten minutes after you have switched off the latest news, how much of it can you remember? Do you know where Kosovo is? Is your memory for trivial news voracious? If you went on the News Quiz, would you get the questions right, or would you say, like Alan Coren, "Well, Simon, I would rather you had asked me about the story about the two kippers and the policewoman..."?

Now is the chance to test yourself! Here are seven news stories from the last 10 days. Which of them are true and which are false? On your marks, get set...

1 A man in Alnwick, Northumbria, was prosecuted on the very unusual charge of conspiring to entice others to trespass. He was engaged in

a vendetta against his next-door neighbour, and devised the unusual plan of annoying him by tying a set of inflated party balloons to his neighbour's gate. Everyone assumed that there was a party going on and enough gatecrashers arrived to make the man's life a misery all afternoon. By the time the man discovered the balloons on his gate outside, he had had to deal with over 30 uninvited guests. He therefore sued his neighbour on the charge of enticing to trespass.

2 The lighthouse at Beachy Head, which is being moved a short distance, is not being transported for safety reasons or to avoid erosion. The fact is that English Heritage have recently hired a feng shui consultant who has decided that the lighthouse was built in a most un-

propitious situation, facing slightly the wrong way, and inviting evil influences. The lighthouse is not being taken to another site – it is in fact being revolved a little so that it faces a luckier direction.

3 Police were called to a hot snacks'n'sandwich bar in a lay-by in Lincolnshire where more than 60 cars were parked and at least 100 people were queuing for service. A little unrest had broken out, with people throwing water over each other. Police were curious to know why there was such a demand for food and drink. It turned out that the sandwich bar had recently been awarded a licence for celebrating marriages, and one of their regular lorry drivers had elected to get married there. The long queue was the wedding reception and the

cause, as one bank executive put it, RI can think of several countries in Latin America that are a better credit risk than the old bar. They are also looking at the possibility of getting the Queen Mother extradited to Spain.

4 Anxious to reclaim from the Queen Mother the £4m she owes it, Coutts Bank has been having secret talks with the present owners of Barings Bank to see if they can use the same mechanism that Barings used with Nick Leeson. Their talks are being kept very hush-hush because Coutts does not want it to seem as if it is trying to get the Queen Mum sent to prison. On the other hand, it would dearly love to get the money back, be-

cause, as one bank executive put it, RI can think of several countries in Latin America that are a better credit risk than the old bar. They are also looking at the possibility of getting the Queen Mother extradited to Spain.

5 Crop circles seldom make news during the winter, for the simple reason that crops are not generally grown during the winter and it is hard to make circles in non-existent wheat. However, cerealogists were called out in great excitement last week to a field in the middle of Wiltshire where astounding symmetrical patterns had been spotted in the bare earth. A series of mostly straight, but sometimes wavy lines in very tight parallels.

6 While they were examining the phenomenon, the farmer who

owned the field came past that way and informed them somewhat curiously that a) they were trespassing, and b) the patterns were due to the fact that he had ploughed the field the day before. The cerealogists refused to believe him and now think that the patterns were made by out-of-season crop circle aliens on a day outing.

7 The Americans have a secret plan up their sleeve to deal with the Serbians. As a last resort, they are going to fly low over Serbian ski resorts and knock down all their cable-cars.

Did you spot that, in fact, all of the stories were fake, except for one that was about Gwyneth Paltrow and the seven red-headed dwarfs? Well done!



**MILES  
KINGTON**  
As a last resort, the US  
will fly low over Serbian  
ski resorts and knock  
down their cable-cars

unrest and horseplay with water were an attempt to sober up the best man in time for his speech.

# THE INDEPENDENT

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## Ireland cannot live in this limbo land for much longer

A FEW days ago Gerry Adams said this: "I am convinced that we are going to get a democratic peace settlement and that's why I say to David Trimble: 'But why not now? Why put it off?' This is the time for moving forward, for seizing the moment and moving positively together and not letting people down."

The moment was not seized. Should people feel let down? There will be disappointment. It would have been an historic achievement to set up the Northern Ireland Executive. Had things not been put off yet again, we should now be reflecting on the courage of those involved, rather than pondering another pause. So, if the parties won't agree now, with all the psychological pressure of the anniversary of the Good Friday agreement, when will they? What hope is there that they will not for ever be content to live in the limbo land of agreement without a settlement, of ceasefire without disarmament, of progress without movement?

There are reasons to feel hopeful. First, the scale of what is being attempted needs to be borne in mind. The question of the IRA decommissioning its weapons has been fudged time and again. It is where irresistible Unionism meets immovable republicanism. Even a year is a short time to weaken attitudes that have taken centuries to ossify. It may also have been too much to ask during the emotion of the annual commemoration of the 1916 Easter Rising.

Second, the war in the Balkans may have proved to be too much of a distraction for Tony Blair and, especially, Bill Clinton. In 10 days' time they may be able to play a still more active and powerful role.

Third, and most important, the break in the formal talks does not mean that dialogue, thought and imagination have also adjourned. The IRA can and should begin decommissioning now. It seems that it will not. In that case, there is only one way through that can be explored immediately between now and the next round of talks. The compromise that could be pursued is for Sinn Fein to join the executive on the explicit promise that the IRA will shortly thereafter begin decommissioning, on a scale and at a speed that is satisfactory to the Unionists. It is, to borrow a phrase, gut-wrenching to ask David Trimble and his community to agree to this, and they should do so only with the most clear and public undertakings and with the shortest gap between words and actions.

Some cause for optimism, then. But delays cannot be indefinite. Tensions will mount during the summer and as the marching season approaches. The power of the referendum results about the agreement, on both sides of the border, will begin to lapse soon. The risk of destabilising atrocities perpetrated by splinter groups persists. The hand of history still rests heavily on the shoulders of the participants. But it will not rest there for ever.



## Ground troops are now the only deterrent left

THE CAPTURE of three American soldiers will give further ammunition to those who believe that the entire mission against Milosevic is a foolhardy enterprise. In reality, the mission is not foolhardy, but over-cautious.

Slobodan Milosevic has, unsurprisingly, used the capture of the soldiers for his own propaganda purposes. But the parading of the American soldiers on Belgrade television may also help to harden American opinion, until now deeply wary about distant Kosovo.

Such a hardening of opinion is needed if the crucial next step is to be taken. It is increasingly clear that the use of ground troops - or, at the very least, the credible threat of ground troops - is the only way to force Milosevic to compromise. There is a tendency to talk dismissively of "arm-

chair warriors". But the armchair peacemakers have had an incomparably poor record in the Balkans in the past decade. Even the doves now admit that if the international community had taken tougher action in Bosnia at an earlier stage, then thousands of lives could have been saved.

One much-heard argument against the current bombing campaign, and against the use of ground troops, is that the war has only made the lot of the Kosovo Albanians even worse. In the narrow sense, that is true. Conspicuously, however, we do not hear that argument from the Albanian refugees themselves: they blame Milosevic himself for their plight. The people who have borne the brunt of the horror know just how grim the prospects would have been had the international community continued simply to stand by. For Milosevic, brutality against civilians is part of the standard repertoire. The wholesale slaughter and "ethnic cleansing" in recent days provides the most vivid possible reminder of why it was necessary to take tough action against Milosevic in the first place.

All the well-meaning concerns about too tough a policy against Serbia become irrelevant when set against the background of the latest bloodshed. The current policy of extermination is merely the logical extension of what Milosevic had already been doing for many years. The mass killing of civilians provides the final proof - though proof should no longer be needed, after the experience of the past 10 years - of the lengths to which Milosevic will go to retain absolute power.

We might have hoped, after the experience of Iraq, that politicians and generals alike would be wary of leaving a job half-done. Increasingly, it looks as though that may be the outcome of the current action in Serbia. This would be doubly disastrous. At the very least, a declaration of readiness to prepare a ground assault would send an important signal. On each previous occasion, the West has blinked before Milosevic. To do so on this occasion would be the ultimate betrayal - not just of the Albanians, but of all the Balkan nations he has trodden over in turn.

## Ulster may yet prove the triumph of politics over tribal feeling

SO WE are not quite there yet. Easter is a sacred period in the Republican calendar and this weekend the Sinn Fein leadership will fan out to the traditional rallies in memory of the 1916 rebellion. Those who hoped that they would do so, having announced that they have thought the so-far unthinkable and agreed to hand over arms before assuming office in a new devolved Northern Ireland government, will be disappointed.

This was bridge too far, even after a night of talks in which neither Tony Blair nor Bertie Ahern the Irish Taoiseach had slept, as they attempted to conclude the talks. If necessary they will return again in Tony Blair's case Balkan war or not, when the parties reconvene on 13 April. Yet in the sunshine in front of that handsome, understated late 18th century mansion which is Hillsborough Castle, one of the last vice-regal relics of British rule, the two men yesterday afternoon seemed, despite their exhaustion, irrepressibly upbeat. What had gone on? Were they kidding us? Were they just whistling to keep their spirits up?

The answer is surely no. To say that is not to underestimate the fundamental issue that decommissioning of arms has become. Perhaps it would not have been had Sir Patrick Mayhew, John Major's second Northern Ireland Secretary, had not made it a pre-requisite in the famous "Washington Three" condition of a political settlement.

It was, after all, only after that the Unionists elevated it to the absolute precondition of sitting in an executive

with Sinn Fein. It may be, too, that decommissioning can only be at best be a gesture, since no one will really know, even after it happens, where all the weaponry is and whether it has been handed over.

Maybe, too, the decision to set a deadline of Easter made it all the more difficult to achieve, since the problems for Sinn Fein on confronting their most ardent supporters at this weekend's rallies would have been not only politically difficult, but quite possibly physically dangerous. And, yes, it's true that paramilitary rebels from Ecuador to Mozambique have managed to make disarmament part of the negotiations which have concluded these wars. And it's just possible that, in contrast to last Easter, the world's eyes were not on Northern Ireland but on Kosovo, the incentive to conclude the business was just a little less than it might otherwise have been if the full international media circus had been present.

But these are details.

The fact is that the pressures on Martin McGuinness and Gerry Adams, two figures that the British Government is now utterly convinced want to play their parts in normal politics beyond the shadow of the gun, are deep and serious, before and after Easter.

The pressures on David Trimble are huge too: waiting in the wings, even among his own party members elected to the nascent assembly, are men who want to see the process fail and who, if he doesn't deliver within the next fortnight, will seek to rise up and find someone else to lead them.

It was, after all, only after that the Unionists elevated it to the absolute precondition of sitting in an executive



DONALD MACINTYRE

*The Blair-Ahern way is to keep the momentum going rather than to batten down every single, legalistic detail*

almost certainly backwards. But for the republican leaders, the dangers are not merely political: they may even be life-threatening for men who, whatever their gruesome past attachments, have already shown real and distinctive bravery in coming this far.

So what are the grounds for the optimism which the two Prime Ministers so relentlessly conveyed outside Hillsborough yesterday? Well, first of all, despite ritually repeating their opposition to decommissioning as a prior condition of the assembly and the executive going live, Sinn Fein did not denounce the joint "working draft" which was produced by the two governments yesterday.

British officials were at some pains last night to point out that, exactly a year ago, Sinn Fein neither endorsed nor condemned the Good Friday

agreement either. Yet the agreement's momentum, for all the faltering, is still there, and with the determined participation of Adams and McGuinness.

Whether the Unionist sources who claimed last night that there had been fierce internal debate over the demands for decommissioning within the Sinn Fein delegation were right, the British are surprisingly confident that both of them want the latest declaration to be fulfilled - which appears to mean that they will, in the end, have to accept the "obligation" to put enough arms, as the declaration puts it "beyond use" to satisfy Sir John de Chastelaine, the Canadian general overseeing the handing over of arms.

The wording of the declaration is a little wobbly in places; the exact nature of the dance in which there will be a decommissioning of "some arms" and "an act of reconciliation" before the powers are devolved, a mite unclear. But that is the Blair-Ahern way, to keep the momentum going rather than batten down every single, legalistic detail.

It is impossible not to admire the two prime ministers in Tony Blair's case a dog-tired one, no doubt desperately hoping that war in Serbia will go better than it has done so far. Kosovo seemed a planet away as the sun shone down yesterday on Hillsborough, a sleepy village which could be in the Cotswolds if it were not in County Down. The Falls Road, the Shankill and Portadown also seemed far away. You couldn't help wondering if the Prime Minister was able to resist the temptation to draw any comparisons between Northern Ireland

and the scene of Milosevic's carnage. All-out civil war in Northern Ireland has never been more at the very periphery of the most pessimistic vision of the last 20 years here. But it is just possible, as he shuttled with the Taoiseach between the parties, that one connection may have occurred to him. What is being attempted here is the triumph of politics over tribal feuding and the gun - an effort that has so signally failed in the former Yugoslavia. This is a land in which people who support the same football teams, buy their clothes at the same Marks and Spencer, have been capable of killing each other for no better reason than they went to the wrong school.

The popular will in Northern Ireland to see an end to that is now, probably, irresistible. Blair, a politician supremely tuned to the popular will, recognises that. But what is more important is that he is sure that all the parties understand it too. Republican engaged with Unionist at these talks, by all accounts, with a cordiality that would have been unthinkable even a year ago.

That is not a sufficient condition of the final settlement. But it is probable that David Trimble and Gerry Adams now recognise how much each needs the other to prevail in their own ranks.

Blair seemed almost irrationally optimistic that Northern Ireland would be living under power sharing devolved government by the summer. But it was an optimism that, in the spring sunshine at Hillsborough, it was impossible not to share.

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We don't like the way they're treated and we have a long memory about these kinds of things."

General Wesley Clark, Nato Supreme Commander Europe on the three US soldiers captured by the Serbs

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"To believe yourself to be brave is to be brave; it is the only essential thing."

Mark Twain.  
American author

WWW.

AT LONG last Mr Stephen Byers, the Trade Secretary, has seen sense and put Rover workers, BMW and, indeed, the whole of the West Midlands out of their agony. There has been too much uncertainty for too long. It has sapped the morale of Rover's workers - many of whom have taken their skills elsewhere, to the detriment of the company. If BMW is willing to devote so much of its own resources to Rover at Longbridge, how can car cri-

ics seriously suggest that the relatively modest amount of Government aid being given to the plant is likely to be wasted? The money is well spent.

*The Birmingham Post*

IN THE context of the leap of faith BMW shareholders are taking, this cash injection is a trifile. The road back to sustainable profitability may be long and full of potholes, but Rover has a 50-50 chance of making it through before BMW

## MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

*British press comment on the news that Rover's Longbridge plant has been saved*

shareholders are thoroughly sick. Since they have already absorbed the worst of Rover's losses, they should not turn back now.

*The Financial Times*

mans have invested over £4bn in Rover since taking over more than eight years ago - and that is more than any previous state hand-outs. Having been given the grant they want and the workers' total support with new flexible working hours, it is time for BMW to deliver. That is the least their loyal UK workers deserve.

*The Sun*

IT ISN'T only the people who work at Rover's Longbridge

plant who should be celebrating. Saving the factory is a boost for the whole country. The Government did not want to throw money at BMW, which owns Rover. That was how millions of pounds were wasted in the past. But BMW is spending huge sums on Longbridge. It was entitled to get some reasonable aid from the Government.

Now it has, Longbridge is secure.

*The Mirror*

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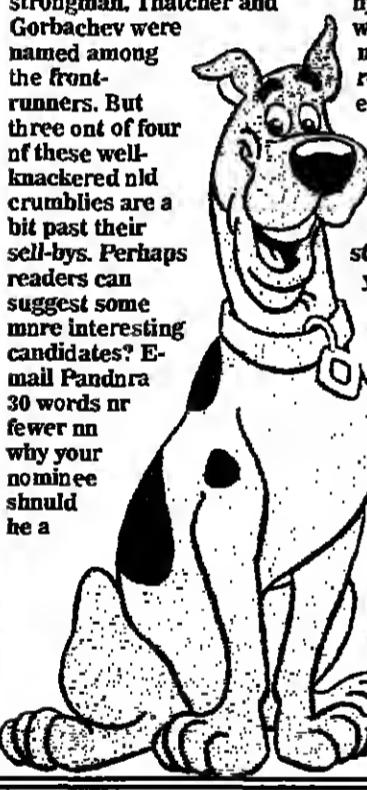
## PANDORA

SUNDAY MARKS Nato's 50th anniversary (and we'll skip cracks about the day being a real bomb and going with a bang, if you don't mind) Nato's big five-oh seems a good time to remind readers that Rule 5 of the organisation's articles of association states that "an armed attack against [one member] shall be considered an attack against them all." Funny enough, Nato's diktat is surprisingly similar to the Hells Angels' bylaw No 10: "When an angel punches a non-Angel, all other angels will participate." Fine strategic minds think alike.

CHARLES SPENCER, the lawyer who holds most of the heart of the lovely Express editor, Rosie Boycott, thrifitly bought himself a number of sleek new designer suits in the January sales. Imagine his chagrin when he discovered all had mysteriously gone walkabout. Bountiful Rosie, it seems, had generously donated the m to a local charity shop. Minions from *The Depress* were hurriedly dispatched to try to retrieve the expensive kit. Coming soon to a waste bin near you: a thrilling feature about the serendipity of thrift shopping.

SEEN IN 102, the smart Notting Hill Gate watering-hole: Sir Robin Day wearing a Bill Clinton mask.

HAS JAPAN'S leading newspaper, *Asahi Shimbun*, found a way to improve that Western invention, the April Fools' gag? We're assured not. But in April the newspaper ran a prominent piece suggesting that Prime Minister Keizan Obuchi is trying to push through an initiative called Minister Big Bang. This would invite "two or three" foreigners to join the Japanese cabinet. Mickey Kantor, a former Clinton aide, Lee Kwan Yew, the sinister Singapore strongman, Thatcher and Gorbachev were named among the front-runners. But three out of four of these well-knuckled old crumbles are a bit past their sell-by. Perhaps readers can suggest some more interesting candidates? E-mail Pandora 30 words or fewer nn why your nominee should be a



THE PHRASE that pays. The words that put the gild on Pandora's stride this week: "They don't have a Scooby." (Pictured) Think rhyming slang. And if you still don't get it... you haven't a clue.

Contact Pandora by e-mail: [pandora@independent.co.uk](mailto:pandora@independent.co.uk)

Japanese cabinet minister. The best will be passed on to the Japanese embassy.

JOHN MAPLES, the shadow Defence Secretary, who infuriated his erstwhile Knightsbridge neighbours with the "horrible" smells emanating from his kitchen, is becoming inexplicably mellow. This week in the Commons, he was spotted putting in some overtime at the Z-factory during a speech by Clare Short. Further along the blue benches, the Hague honcho and alleged tightwad, Alan Duncan, has also been making a spectacle of himself. When asked about his new glasses, the *gravitas*-hungry Duncan admitted: "They don't actually magnify anything."

TOMORROW IS Boat Race day, so Pandora presents her subtitles for the language-impaired to give you the low-down on what the muscle in those boats will be saying. A bear jumped on our back - lack of energy at the end of a race; blade - part of the oar that goes in the water; catch a crab - when the blade gets caught in the water after a stroke; hammer - strong rower with no technique; luggage - a rower who doesn't pull his weight; stroke seat - rower who sets the boat's pace; swing - state achieved when a crew moves in unison.

BRITAIN IS a high society - and that's official. According to the Lisbon-based European Centre for Monitoring Drugs and Drug Abuse, Brits consume more illegal narcotics per head than anywhere else in Euroland. Brits are even outdoing the Netherlands, a state so drug-friendly it's becoming a nation in a state.

MINISTRY MAGAZINE, a journal that chronicles young people's escapades in night-clubs, claims that a hypnotist, Zane Monroe, is working the nation's nannies offering to replicate the disco biscuit experience for £2 a pop. Of course, since you're in a hypnotic trance, there's no danger of you hapless clubbers approaching a complete stranger and hearing yourself saying: "Nice one geezer! Sorted! Here are my credit cards, give 'em a caning! Wicked!"

## For a Christian, this is a just war



RICHARD HARRIES

*In a fallen, sinful world it is sometimes a stern duty to use military force to protect the defenceless*

established in relation to Iraq, namely that it is possible to intervene within the borders of another sovereign country for exceptional humanitarian reasons, there has been no explicit resolution allowing this in relation to Kosovo.

So war is justified - but only under certain conditions. Today Christians are fiercely divided as to whether those conditions have been met in the action against Serbia. First there must be legitimate authority. One of the most hopeful developments since the Second World War is that we now assume this to be the United Nations. But although a general principle was

It is the fourth criterion that causes the most trouble. This says that military action must not unleash more evil than would have to be endured if such action were not taken. Integrally related to this is the judgement that there must be a reasonable chance of success. Here, of course, the moral dimension overlaps with political and military considerations.

But what counts as success? There is little doubt that the skill and training of the Nato forces will achieve the military objective of drastically weakening the Serbian forces. But this military objective cannot be seen apart from the political goal, which must be a priority. It is far from obvious at the moment that the political plan as outlined in the Rambouillet agreement can yet be attained by bombing, and rightly or wrongly, the Government keeps on ruling out ground forces.

It isn't surprising that Christians, like the country as a whole, are now making very different predictions about what is possible. As a worst case, it is possible to envisage Milosevic suing for peace with all his troops and police in possession of an "ethnically cleansed" northern third of Kosovo - and Nato having neither the will nor the capacity to do anything but accede.

The second condition is that there must be a just cause. The protection of terrorised Albanian Kosovars must certainly qualify.

And the third condition, that war be a last resort, has also surely been met.

Every peaceful means of resolving the conflict must first

However, with all these dire predictions, now we have embarked on this course what matters at this stage is an iron resolve to achieve the goal we have set. The danger is that a ruthless ruler such as Milošević can make us hesitate and weaken. But to weaken now is, in effect, to hand the world over to those who are prepared to raise the stakes ever higher through their unrestrained cruelty - in this case, "ethnic cleansing".

In the last analysis it is not up to the church to say whether a particular action is right or wrong. It is government that is in a position to know the facts, that will have weighed up the risks and that bears the awesome responsibility. Our role, through the exercise of the teaching office of the church, is to urge that the criteria must be met. When it comes to the conduct of the action, the prime requirement is to target only military installations and forces, the principle of non-combatant immunity, i.e. civilians not directly contributing to the war effort, is the most sacrosanct tradition of thinking about this subject. Here there is one thing for which to be thankful. Modern precision-guided weapons make it more possible than ever for military targets to be accurately located and hit.

Abel's blood for vengeance  
Pleaded to the skies  
But the blood of Jesus  
For our pardon cries

The writer is Bishop of Oxford

## Dangerous liaisons: why the French still do it in style



SUZANNE LOWRY

*The latest sociologists' myth is that Frenchmen no longer have mistresses, but only affairs followed by divorce and remarriage, just like les Anglo-Saxons.*

In recent years these specialists in demythification have been busy creating a myth of their own: that Frenchmen no longer have mistresses, but only affairs followed by divorce and remarriage, just like les Anglo-Saxons.

It took the biggest financial scandal of the post-war era and a leggy, loquacious blonde to give the lie to this nonsense. Among the mendacity, bribery and money-laundering that swirled merrily around in the Elf national oil company, Christine Deviers-Joncour seemed to be the lady who took all.

As a paid consultant of the company, she did not carry suitcases stuffed with millions of francs in cash from Paris to Switzerland ("they were very heavy"), she remarked later, she also ferried messages, instructions and little presents between her boss, Elf's financial director Alfred Sirven and her lover Roland Dumas, Minister of Foreign Affairs and close adviser of the then President François Mitterrand.

Christine was exceptionally well set up by her lover and employee. She had a vast and gilded apartment in the seventh arrondissement of Paris that cost Elf about £2m.

Here, using the lavishly provisioned Elf credit card, she decorated in fabulous style, dressed in couture and entertained Dumas and the good, the bad and the ugly of the day - not least by playing on

the grand piano also bought for her. Here was a mistress to end all mistresses, who out-pompadoured Pompadour; who was kept in *grand l'ure* not only by a wealthy man, but by a state-owned conglomerate who used her to sweeten a minister. Or was it vice versa? The final story has not yet been told. No wonder, when the scandal broke, Christine called herself *la putain de la République* - the Republic's whore - when she sat down to write her memoirs during a sobering period in jail.

The other day Christine acted out another chapter in the melodrama - that of the woman scorned - when she revenged herself on Dumas. She had consistently maintained that he had nothing to do with Elf's dirty money. But when he dropped her in her trouble - "didn't even send a flower" - she dropped him in the judicial soup. Everything had been done, all money spent, at his instigation, she revealed. Dumas was forced from his cushy retirement post as president of the Constitutional Council, and the case against him has been reopened.

Another liaison recently ended in resignations and gnashings of teeth, when the former prime minister Edith Cresson's *jubilée* for a provincial dentist helped bring down not only her but also the whole European Commission.

Cresson, who had been commis-

sioner for education and science, had employed René Berthelot, with whom she had been living for years,

on a salary of some £50,000 a year to do little more than travel to and from their French home base at Chateauroux. "She can't do without me," René used to boast when Edith was PM and he had a room in the Hôtel Matignon, the French 10 Downing Street.

A twist in that tale is that Edith Cresson was one of president Mitterrand's many mistresses years ago. "My little soldier," he used to call the feisty redhead. When he made her minister of agriculture, however, angry farmers called her *la parfumée du président* - the president's floozie.

Mitterrand was a master in the

kingly art of having his marital cake and eating it - and making the state pay for it. The French were amazed and fascinated - rather than shocked - when their sphinx-like leader was publicly mourned by two families when he died in 1996. It then emerged that the shadowy second family, Anne Pingeot and her daughter Mazarine, had been kept at taxpayers' expense in an annexe of the Elysée Palace for years. All part of the clandestine financial subculture of a corrupt regime that

is now slowly being unravelled by the lawyers investigating Elf, the affairs of Credit Lyonnais and other relics of Mitterrandism.

"He is interested only in money and death", one of the president's victims once said of him. Certainly troublesome people at his court tended to die off suddenly, and it was said last week by a former aide that "If Mitterrand had been alive, Durans would already be dead".

Money - a lot of it - rather than murder, is the key to keeping a mistress. And this is what the aforesaid sociologists have been pointing out. Frenchmen, says Michel Platé (among others), "have been forced to give up institutionalised infidelity" because few of them can afford the little flat on the Left Bank, the gifts and the bills and perhaps the annuity for life. Still less can they afford to risk divorce, to which a wronged French wife now quite quickly resorts, no longer content to accept the

role of wife and mother and a lifetime of security in exchange for giving her husband permission to range free.

Cécile Abdeslam, another social pundit, revealed that those men who do stray (and one in five French husbands is unfaithful at some time) are not suave Latin lovers as imagined by Nancy Mitford; they get into dreadful tangled messes. Their affairs become anguished and they find themselves caught between a mistress demanding marriage and a wife who'll divorce him if she finds out about the mistress. It sounds depressingly more like the plot of a dreary Hollywood movie than a sexy French farce.

Only a millionaire as wealthy as the late Sir James Goldsmith can afford to say that "when you marry your mistress you create a vacancy". Or, of course, a senior politician with access to unlimited funds of a big nationalised company.

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PODIUM

DAVID CESARANI  
*From a talk by the professor of Jewish history at Southampton University to the South Place Ethical Society*

address "the human predicament". In *Insight and Outlook* (1947), he had tried to found a new morality and politics on scientific truths. His later science writing was driven by a humanistic imperative. In *The Lotus and the Robot* (1958), he delivered a blistering critique of Hinduism and Zen, which he believed eroded the individual's sense of responsibility.

Although he rejected conventional politics in the mid-1950s, Koestler continued to

flawed and his legacy is cloudy. His analysis of Marxism was simplistic: in debunking the vulgar popularisers of Stalinism he blinded himself to the emancipatory elements in the Marxist tradition.

Instead of exploring ways to change society, he tinkered with ways to change man. He believed in predestination. While he condemned behaviourism, he interpreted neurological discoveries to mean that man was enslaved to a primitive part of the brain that obliged humans to behave like animals. In *The Ghost in the Machine* (1967) he recommended the mass distribution of tranquilising drugs via the water system.

Koestler's politics became self-contradictory. In his Zionist novel, *Thieves in the Night* (1946), he qualified the maxim that the end can never justify the means. Instead, he maintained that Jewish terrorism in Palestine was justified by Jewish suffering and the need for a homeland. He berated the USSR, but was silent about the conduct of "authoritarian" capitalist regimes. For the sake of the Cold War alliance he refused to denounce Franco. In

deed, the anti-Communist end justified increasingly dubious means. During the 1950s he concealed the knowledge that the CIA was covertly funding the Congress for Cultural Freedom. This was a version of the "useful lie". Worse, he implicitly condoned the terrorist and murderous activity of the CIA.

Finally, Koestler's personal beliefs and behaviour stand in contrast to what he preached. Duplicity and infidelity scarred personal relationships. He was violent towards women and committed rape. He castigated the Japanese for using abortion too freely, but his rejection of parenthood led his wives and mistresses to terminate their pregnancies. At home he was a bully and a tyrant. Yet he didn't cajole his wife, Cynthia, aged 55, to live on when he decided in early 1982, as a result of a terminal illness, to commit suicide. In a pamphlet on suicide he advised young people faced by the death of a loved one to seek counselling and focus on the possibilities that life still offered. He seemed not to apply this advice to his own wife.

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TO THE politically aware in the 1940s and 1950s, the name of Arthur Koestler brought to mind a fighter for freedom. Today he is almost forgotten. When he is recalled it is for his notorious private life. Yet this does an injustice to a heroic figure of the "totalitarian age" who wrestled with the most difficult questions of the century.

Koestler was born in Budapest in 1905 and raised in Jewish family. At Vienna University he became a Zionist and in 1926 emigrated to Palestine. From 1933 to 1940 he lived among the German Communists in Paris. He travelled to Spain for the CP in 1936-7, was caught by Franco's troops and threatened with death. Koestler served briefly in the British army before doing propaganda work and writing. He was involved with the Zionist movement from 1945 to 1948, but broke with it. He lived in France and America before settling in Britain in 1952.

Koestler was consistently preoccupied by political and ethical questions. In the 1930s his anti-Fascist writing helped to rally opinion against Franco. His novel of ideas, *Darkness at Noon* (1940), was one of the first and certainly the most potent books to expose Stalinism. Although the USSR was at the height of its popularity, thanks to the role of the Red Army in the defeat of Hitler, in *The Yogi and the Commissar* (1945) Koestler unrelentingly denounced Communism.

His anti-Communism rested on a rejection of determinism in the form of historical materialism. He showed that a revolutionary vanguard that believes it possesses the secret of history feels able to commit endless atrocities "for the good of the cause". Certain of reaching utopia, revolutionaries argue that the end justifies the means: the life of a man is disposable to fulfil the destiny of mankind.

This conviction also spawned the doctrine of the useful lie, that any untruth could be deployed to hasten the revolution. Because they disp

# Will America crack?



MARY DEJEVSKY

*While the US stands high in military might, on the human front it is infinitely vulnerable*

AMERICA AWOKE yesterday to find its worst fears confirmed. Three US soldiers, reported missing on the Macedonian-Yugoslav border the previous evening, had been captured by Serbian forces and paraded on Belgrade television as prisoner-hostages. Such pictures, as any American president knows, have the power to turn the tide of a war, declared or not; to shake, if not to topple, the President.

The military significance of the incident for the Nato operation against President Milosevic is negligible; the loss of one small, Jeep-like vehicle and three rank-and-file soldiers – a private and two NCOs – will not tip the scales of advantage one way or another. In terms of public morale in the US, however, the impact is potentially cataclysmic.

The change in the American mood was immediately palpable. The networks' normally irrepressibly cheerful breakfast anchors were sombre. Reporters in the field seemed deflated. From Aviano air force base in Italy came reports of a pervasive disappointment that the concerted rescue mission had failed. The fact is that while the US stands head and shoulders above any other country in terms of its military might, on the human front it is infinitely vulnerable – and its enemies well know that.

The first real setback for the United States in the Nato operation in Yugoslavia – and a genuine military loss – was the downing of the F-117A Stealth plane on only the third day of air strikes. In propaganda terms, however, the humiliation caused by the loss of the plane was more than outweighed by the textbook rescue of the pilot. Serb pictures of the burning wreckage and its insignia were neutralised in American opinion by reports of the pilot's joyous return to his base.

In the hours before the rescue mission was declared successful, there had been dark mutterings from the ubiquitous military strategists who have taken over from the lawyers as media experts that, if the rescue failed, it would probably be better for the pilot to be dead than captured. Dead, he would be a liability. Short of a spectacular rescue to pluck the three men from their



Protesters demonstrate outside the White House against the Nato bombing of Serbia

Leslie Kossoff/AP

captors, something that the Yugoslav authorities will have taken every measure to prevent, the captives are now a liability to the whole Nato operation.

The coming hours will determine whether the American public is swayed by their plight to the point where support for Nato air strikes and for President Clinton starts to crack. But there were already signs that Americans were not as solidly determined to support Nato action over Kosovo to the bitter end as some Europeans, especially Britons. A Gallup poll published yesterday, but taken before the capture of the three soldiers, showed a majority in Britain supporting the deployment of ground troops if necessary, but a large majority (two-thirds) of Americans opposed.

On Wednesday evening he went on television – in a one-to-one interview with Dan Rather, the “most trusted newsmen in America”, to reiterate his support for the Nato operation and stress his determination to see it through. Yesterday, he was scheduled to make a trophy-rallying visit to the Norfolk naval base in Virginia.

The administration also spruced up its message, producing official after official to counter the growing wave of accusations that Nato was directly responsible for the refugee

Kosovo refugees and recounting their harrowing experiences at the hands of the Serbs. Refugee pictures have a particular resonance in the US, where millions of people have experiences of their own, or family histories, that include just such horrific eviction.

Those pictures prompted a perceptible shift in the signals sent out by the administration. Last weekend the emphasis had been on “business as usual”, “no panic”. Mr Clinton spent Sunday at Camp David, and on Monday afternoon played golf. By Tuesday, though, he was making known through reporters that he was “deeply disturbed” by the scenes from the Kosovo border.

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The administration also spruced up its message, producing official after official to counter the growing wave of accusations that Nato was directly responsible for the refugee

crisis. While this was, and remains, the Serbian propaganda line, such charges had an inescapable logic.

The wave of women and children crossing the border in Albania, Macedonia and Montenegro, weeping and destitute, had only begun – so far as American viewers were aware – in the wake of Nato attacks. And these pictures were hard to dispel, however forcefully and unambiguously President Clinton, his Defence Secretary, his Secretary of State and others insisted that the Nato air strikes had been ordered because Serb forces were preparing to sweep Kosovo.

The Pentagon, too, whose daily briefings had hitherto been bland and uninformative, suddenly sprang into full propagandist mode, producing senior uniformed officers and a barrage of maps, charts and photographs to show the extent of Nato air strikes, and to chronicle at least a tentative, if sanitised, balance of success and failure.

The Pentagon had been under pressure from US reporters, disappoited – and increasingly angered – not only by the lack of detail coming from the Pentagon, but by being consistently upstaged by their colleagues stationed in Europe.

While the original discrepancy

between the briefings on either side of the Atlantic may have been intentionally arranged to promote Nato as the leading force behind the military action, downplay the US role, and shield the US from criticism should things go wrong, that thinking backedfire.

American reporters, for whom the Irish doublets of Jamie Shea and Air Commodore David Wilby had become compulsive breakfast-time viewing, were surprised and impressed by the unsuspected skill of the British briefers.

The friction between the Pentagon and other departments that has become apparent in recent days is likely to increase. The bombing of targets inside Montenegro – a part of Yugoslavia that had none the less conducted itself as neutral – has been a particular cause of discord.

Mounting evidence of practical miscalculation – from running short of cruise missiles to stockpiling large quantities of food aid in areas that are now effectively behind enemy lines – has undermined confidence in the Pentagon’s management.

The news yesterday morning only exacerbated that mistrust. The Pentagon evinced a marked ambiguity about which side of the border the captured soldiers had

The leader of the Scottish National Party responds to a recent article by David Aaronovitch.

THERE IS no doubt in anyone’s mind that Slobodan Milosevic is a brutal dictator with much innocent blood on his hands. That is not, however, the sole issue when the world considers that Nato bombing campaign.

The real issue is to come to a judgement as to whether the present campaign can succeed in doing anything effective about him, and, more importantly still, can save the people of Kosovo.

Of course bombing is not the cause of “ethnic cleansing” and David Aaronovitch in suggesting that such is my position weakens his whole argument. But his argument is weaker still when you consider his core point – his view that there is a direct parallel between opposition to the bombing and the appeasement of the Thirties.

It is not possible to relieve a humanitarian disaster just by dropping bombs from a distance.

That was not the tactics of the Thirties – the problem that confronted the Allies against Hitler was to re-arm fast enough to wage war given the unpreparedness of previous years. That was total war – not the naive belief that one type of warfare could produce miraculous results.

I have nothing but admiration and support for our service men and women engaged in the task they have been ordered to carry out. My criticism is directed at those who issue the orders – the politicians. They have to decide whether their actions are to achieve the objectives they have set – and not at any human cost, but at a cost that can be borne.

I accept that many good men and women disagree with my perspective and with the growing number of people who take a similar position to mine. All I ask is that we judge the means by its effects.

## RIGHT OF REPLY



ALEX SALMOND

## A place for belief in miracles

JEAN-PIERRE BELY, a 69-year-old former intensive care nurse from Angoulême, was recently proclaimed as the first unexplained cure at Lourdes in almost a decade. According to the Shrine, Mr Bely visited the Sanctuary in October 1987 and, shortly after celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation, “felt overcome with a powerful sense of interior liberation and peace that he had never before experienced”. Within a few hours, he was able to sit up in his bed, to feel contact against his skin and to walk for the first time in three years. His health has improved ever since.

The Shrine’s International Medical Bureau announced on 9 February that “Mr Bely suffered an organic infection similar to multiple sclerosis in a severe and advanced stage, of which the sudden cure during a pilgrimage to Lourdes [is] unusual and inexplicable according to all the knowledge of science.” How, in our secular age, can



### FRIDAY BOOK

#### LOURDES: BODY AND SPIRIT IN THE SECULAR AGE

BY RUTH HARRIS, ALLEN LANE/THE PENGUIN PRESS, £25

we begin to explain such miracles – or decide whether they are simply an elaborate trick by a hysterical patient, with a body of colluding doctors?

The question, and its attendant dilemmas, may seem to be rooted in pre-millennial preoccupations. But Ruth Harris’s stunning history of the Sanctuary shows that the debate dates back to Bernadette Soubirous’s visions of 1858. Harris provides a rich cultural context in which to understand how a 14-year-old peasant girl rose to sainthood, founded the Catholic world’s most famous shrine, and safeguarded the phenomenon of

spiritual healing. For Lourdes’s appeal is not simply as a place where miracles occur: it draws on an almost medieval inversion of the external world: a sacred place of intense physicality and back-breaking labour, where pain and suffering take centre stage.

Harris explores the genesis of the shrine through Bernadette’s writings, eye-witness accounts, and explanations by the major players at Lourdes. But she also makes a compelling argument for understanding Bernadette’s vision as a modern example of a medieval tradition that had deep roots in Pyrenean culture. Stor-

ies of miraculous discovery and healing were common throughout the mountain region of south-western France. Bernadette was continuing, rather than inventing, a tradition of peasant girls who had visions near fountains of bubbling waters.

Once her vision had grasped the imagination of local women and then, fortuitously, a Catholic journalist, a local bishop and Amélie Brusat, nanny to the Empress Eugenie’s son, the story went national. Inevitably, perhaps, Bernadette was first besieged by pilgrims, then sent to a local boarding school, and finally hidden away at a convent in Nevers. After performing her service as the shrine’s inspiration, she was “watched, questioned and disciplined, all at a time when she was subject to frequent illness”. She was also punished by the Mother Superior, who kept her a novice for 10 years. She died in 1879.

Meanwhile, Lourdes continued to flourish as its reputation grew as a centre for healing. By 1883, a Medical Bureau was established to investigate the veracity of the pilgrims’ extravagant claims. In 1880 alone, the Assumptionists, who chronicled the cures, chalked up 150 of them. The year before, the Shrine’s director wrote of the 70 “written records of complete cures and considerable improvements”. But it was a Mephistophelean bargain, writes Harris: “On the one hand, the Church gained a measure of scientific sanction for the miraculous; on the other, it ceded some of its authority, no longer willing, it seemed, to pronounce without medical approval.”

Underlying the scepticism that has periodically surfaced over the claims to incredible cures, witnesses often record a profound respect for the human suffering and hope they witness. The novelist Emile Zola, who regarded Lourdes as a “miracle show”, was astounded by what he saw



Jean-Pierre Bely, suddenly cured

on a visit in 1892. His journals reveal that he found Lourdes disturbing and upsetting. “The continual chanting and endless supplication revealed yearnings that he had hoped – or believed – the 19th century had eradicated,” writes Harris.

This honest desire to explain Lourdes, a city that still ranks as France’s greatest tourist attraction outside of Paris, sets Harris’s history apart. It is written with a sharp intelligence, a wealth of detail and deep respect for the strange and enduring phenomenon of pilgrimage.

JULIE WHEELWRIGHT

## KOSOVO CRISIS



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### FRIDAY POEM

#### WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS

BY ISAAC WATTS

When I survey the wondrous Cross,  
Where the young Prince of Glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride.  
  
Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast  
Save in the death of Christ my God:  
All the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to his blood.  
  
See from his head, his hands, his feet,  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?  
  
His dying crimson, like a robe,  
Spreads o'er his body on the Tree;  
Then am I dead to all the globe,  
And all the globe is dead to me.  
  
Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

From ‘Literary Hymns: an anthology’, compiled by Mark Bryant (Hodder & Stoughton, £14.99)

J. V. COOK

# Roland Hunt

**ROLAND HUNT** was appointed as High Commissioner to Uganda in 1965. There, involuntarily but inevitably, he became involved in the power struggle between the new President, Milton Obote, and the Kabaka of Buganda, "King Freddie", who appealed to him for British help before his deposition and exile in 1966.

The following year, as a result of the deteriorating security situation, Hunt issued public advice to British subjects to avoid certain roads which were subject to roadblocks and attacks by undisciplined units of the Ugandan Army. Oughto chose to regard this as interference in Uganda's internal affairs and, to avoid the risk of Hunt's being declared *persona non grata*, on the advice of the Minister of State, Judith Hart, he was withdrawn from the post.

He was involved in a further newsworthy event the following year when, as Assistant Under-Secretary of State with responsibilities for the Caribbean, he accompanied William Whitlock, a junior FCO Minister, to the island of Anguilla where its leader, Ronald Webster, was trying to establish its independence from the associated state of St Kitts-Nevis. After a fruitless negotiation to restore legality, and in the absence of any British security protection, the British team was forced to withdraw in some disorder. Hunt looked back on the incident with considerable amusement, pointing out that none of his experiences, there or in Uganda, would have surprised the Greeks.

Sadly, however, bad luck continued to dog him when what turned out to be his final diplomatic appointment, in 1970, as High Commissioner to Trinidad and Tobago was brought to an untimely end by his seriously breaking his leg on the golf course. This involved his being brought home for major surgery and led to his early retirement from the service, though he went on to become British Secretary of the International Chamber of Commerce from 1973 until 1976.

Hunt was born in Highgate, north London, in 1916. He won a Classics scholarship from Rugby and, after coming down from Queen's College, Oxford, took the exams for entry to the Indian Civil Service in 1938. His success in them resulted in a further year at Oxford doing a government-sponsored course on Empire Studies, during which time he married Pauline Garnett.

On the outbreak of war in 1939, Hunt volunteered to join the Army.

but was firmly told that his membership of the ICS had priority, and shortly afterwards he was despatched to Madras. As a newly arrived sub-collector in an up-country district he was not expected to be married, but with characteristic initiative Pauline soon managed to join him and their first two sons were born in India.

At Independence in 1947 the Hunts returned to London. In 1948

Roland joined the Commonwealth Relations Office and was immediately returned to the subcontinent as a Third Secretary on the staff of the British High Commissioner in Pakistan. Between 1950 and 1952 he was based in Whitehall, dealing with East African security matters, in the course of which he spent some

*After Hunt had played the proposed new national anthem on the piano, they agreed it would not do, and returned it to Britten. He was not amused*

anthem was received, the Tunku zoomed round with outriders to Hunt's home, where he had to be roused from a sickbed. After Hunt had played the proposed anthem on the piano, they both agreed that it would not do. So they tentatively proposed some modifications and returned the entry to Britten, who was, predictably, not amused. Nothing more was heard from him, and in the end a local dance tune, suitably slowed down, was chosen.

With the ending of the emergency in Malaya, Hunt visited South Vietnam to study and advise on the insurgency problem there. He returned to London in 1960 to attend the Imperial Defence College course, and in 1962 was posted back to Pakistan as Deputy High Commissioner, before being appointed High Commissioner in Uganda in 1965.

Roland Hunt's life was enormously enriched by his love of music, and he gave great pleasure to others as well as to himself through his gifted piano-playing. He had a close-knit family in which, until her death from cancer in 1989, he was powerfully supported by Pauline. She was probably more ambitious for him than he was for himself, and made no secret of her disappointment when his premature retirement deprived him of the knighthood he would probably otherwise have been awarded. Roland himself, on the other hand, had a deeply philosophical approach to events and, even after suffering a stroke which seriously impaired his speech and his piano-playing, was prepared to treat life's ups and downs with tolerant amusement.

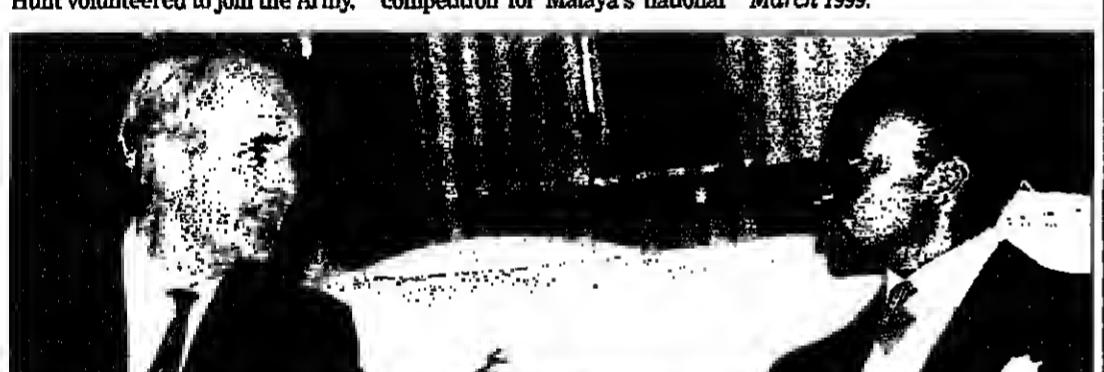
DAVID SCOTT

*Roland Charles Colin Hunt, diplomat; born London 19 March 1916; Deputy High Commissioner in the Federation of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur 1957-59; Assistant Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Office 1961; British Deputy High Commissioner in Pakistan 1962-65; CMG 1965; British High Commissioner in Uganda 1965-67; Assistant Under-Secretary of State, Commonwealth Office/Foreign and Commonwealth Office 1967-70; High Commissioner, Trinidad and Tobago 1970-73; Director, British National Committee, International Chamber of Commerce 1973-76; married 1939 Pauline Garnett (died 1989; three sons, two daughters); died Reading, Berkshire 24 March 1999.*

time in Nairobi as a member of the UK team at the African Defence Facilities Conference. In 1952 he was promoted to be Political Secretary in the High Commission in South Africa, where with his previous defence experience he was appropriately involved in the negotiations for the Simonstown Agreement.

In 1956, on promotion to Counsellor he was appointed as "John the Baptist" and Deputy High Commissioner designate to prepare the way for the setting up of the new High Commission in Kuala Lumpur prior to Malaya becoming independent in 1957. There he established a close working relationship with the founding Prime Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman. Hunt's son Julian tells the story that when Benjamin Britten's entry to the international competition for Malaya's national

On the outbreak of war in 1939, Hunt volunteered to join the Army.



A philosophical approach: Hunt, left, with 'King Freddie', the Kabaka of Buganda, in 1965

## Charles Gerhardt

**CHARLES GERHARDT** would often remark that recording had nothing to do with reality, it was the art of illusion. He was a master illusionist within the record industry, a producer of extraordinary ability and energy, who was probably the most prolific in its history. He was also a fine conductor and arranger who remained known only to the recording public.

Born in 1927 and raised in Little Rock, Arkansas, Gerhardt began piano studies at the age of five. During the Second World War he served with the US Navy in the Aleutians, off Alaska, and returned to study both music and engineering at the University of Illinois and the University of Southern California.

He joined the RCA record label in 1950, at the dawn of the LP era, and with the company still in its golden age. He worked as assistant engineer on sessions with Kirsten

Flagstad, Wanda Landowska, Zinka Milanov and Vladimir Horowitz, and was then seconded to the Toscanini household in Riverdale to become RCA's liaison with their most important artist. Some fascinating taped conversations between Arturo Toscanini and Gerhardt still survive.

Gerhardt also engineered for some of the major pop artists of the period: Mario Lanza, Eartha Kitt, Perez Prado and the Sauter-Finegan Orchestra. His qualities as a future producer first emerged during the New York cast recording of *The Boy Friend*. Overblown Broadway arrangements had rendered the show almost unrecordable when Gerhardt, who was engineering, stepped in and sent most of the band home. He cut the scoring down to size, husked the rest, and the resulting record was a triumph.

He left RCA in the mid-Fifties to work for several smaller indepen-

dent companies. When the call came from George Marek, head of RCA's classical division, he was ready to return as a fully fledged producer.

The entry of the Reader's Digest company into the mail-order record business was imminent and, in association with RCA, an extensive catalogue of new recordings was being planned. Gerhardt was Marek's choice to produce them. He arrived in Europe in 1960 to start work with "Wilde" Kenneth Wilkinson, the legendary chief recording engineer of RCA's then-affiliate the British company Decca. It was the beginning of a partnership that lasted through 30 years and 4,000 recording sessions.

The work rate in those years was incredible. There was a flood of employment for London musicians; the first season's recording revenue alone was enough to ensure the survival of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

Gerhardt's roster of conductors

included Barbirolli, Boult, Freccia, Horenstein, Kempé, Leibowitz, Munch, Reiner and Sargent, and it still wasn't enough. Inevitably, he began to conduct himself. He had taken lessons in technique and was the recipient of invaluable advice from Jascha Horenstein. Now he began to learn on the job.

In 1964 Gerhardt asked the violinist Sydney Sax to assemble an orchestra of the highest class purely for recording purposes. Incorporated in 1970 as the National Philharmonic Orchestra, it drew on the finest players from the vast London orchestral and freelance pool. It became Gerhardt's orchestra of choice for the next three decades.

When the imperturbable George Korngold, son of the Hollywood composer, arrived to share production responsibilities, the time had come for Gerhardt to embark on his most cherished recording project:

the 15 volumes of *Classic Film Scores*. Metically prepared, and performed with irresistible panache, this was the first major exploration of the film music of Erich Korngold, Max Steiner, Franz Waxman, Bernard Herrmann, Alfred Newman, Miklós Rózsa, Dimitri Tiomkin and John Williams. The overwhelming success of *The Sea Hawk* in 1972 led directly to the first recording of a Korngold opera, *Die Tote Stadt*, which Gerhardt produced in 1975.

Gerhardt refused all invitations to appear in concert. He was a creature of the studio and he valued his privacy. It was part of his job to make other musicians sound wonderful, and he exercised his skills as arranger and conductor for Leonore Price, Robert White, Julian Lloyd-Webber and James Galway. Gerhardt's version of "Annie's Song", which reached No 3 in the British charts in 1978, estab-

lished the latter as the best-selling classical artist in the world.

Over the years "Chuck" Gerhardt had become a passionate Anglophile and the English had accepted him as one of their own. In 1986 he made a mistake, he retired, and moved from the Kentish countryside to Southern California. Within a year he was back at work and back in Kent. Finally, he returned to California, a reluctant tax-exile in his own country.

Every year he came back to record in London. In the digital age he had become a kind of splendid anomaly, a producer who was always out on the floor with the musicians; he knew that the essential elements of a performance could not be manufactured in the control room. He was unfailingly kind and generous with young musicians; to know him was to learn.

Among his last recordings is an account of Debussy's *Prelude a l'apres-midi d'un faune* so radiantly youthful as to bring a tear to the eye.

## Judge Krateros Ioannou

**KRATEROS IOANNOU** became a Judge of the European Court of Justice in 1997 and had served for only 18 months before his sudden death following an operation in New York. But he had, in that short time, made his mark as a judge of deep learning, real independence and impartiality of mind, and had passionate loyalty both to the court and to the aims and ideals of the European Union.

The European Court of Justice, which sits at Luxembourg, comprises a panel of 15 judges, one from each EU nation, assisted by nine advocates-general. The court decides cases referred from courts of the member states which require a ruling on the compatibility of national legislation with EU law.

Ioannou was born in Thessaloniki and lived and worked there until his appointment to Luxembourg. He was called to the bar of Thessaloniki in 1963 and after taking his doctorate in international law in 1971 at the University of Thessaloniki, he moved to the University of Thessaloniki, where he was successively a law lecturer, Professor of International and European Community Law, Dean of the Law Faculty and Vice-Chancellor.

He wrote extensively on international law and European law; over 100 articles have appeared in legal periodicals, and among his many books are *An Introduction to International Justice* (in Greek, with S. Parrakis, 1984) and *The War in the Gulf and International Law* (Greek, 1992), as well as a number in French and English.

He held several visiting professorships in the United States, and served as legal adviser to the Greek foreign ministry. In 1983 he became a member of the Greek delegation to the United Nations General Assembly. From 1989 to 1992 he was chairman of the committee of experts charged with improving the Council of Europe's Human Rights Convention. He was also a member of the Court of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

As a boy Ioannou had experienced life under a brutal occupying power and had lived, as a young man, through what he felt to be the national ignominy of the dictatorship of the Colonels. It was natural that his deepest interest was in the field of human rights, about which he could speak with sudden passion.

Without sacrificing his loyalty to Greece, he was acutely conscious of the need to find a solution to ancient conflicts and enmities in the Balkans which would be acceptable in political, but more particularly in human, terms. He still had much to contribute.

DAVID EDWARD

*Krateros Ioannou, judge; born Thessaloniki, Greece 3 June 1935; Law Lecturer, University of Thessaloniki 1974-77; Professor of International and European Community Law 1977-99; Vice-Chancellor 1988-91; Judge of the Court of Justice of the European Communities 1997-99; married Katerina Floran (one stepdaughter); died New York 10 March 1999.*



Young: 'I want a different sound'

## Mighty Joe Young

ALTHOUGH HE had not played much guitar for over 10 years – he played on only two tunes on his last album, *Mighty Man* (1997), and they were recorded before surgery on a pinched nerve in 1986 left his hands virtually powerless – Mighty Joe Young was still living up to his name as recently as last December, when he was touring the United States with Buddy Guy's Legends show. He had built up a strong following among all who appreciated his continuous efforts to give his blues playing and singing a contemporary feel.

"It's different from traditional blues," he said of his last album, which had as much soul as blues in it, with its punchy horn choruses arranged by Gene "Daddy G" Barge and Willie Henderson, "but it is blues. I like a beautiful arrangement, not a traditional sound that's the same all the time. I want a different sound."

Born in 1927 in Shreveport, Louisiana, Young began playing in the early 1950s, working clubs in Milwaukee and then back to his native Louisiana where in 1955 he first recorded for the Jiffy label. He was already well known for his work with the harmonica-player Billy Boy Arnold, the guitarist Jimmy Rogers, and his brilliant contemporary Otis Rush, when in 1961 a manager added

Young appeared regularly on albums by Magic Sam (Morris Holt), Willie Dixon, Albert King, Jimmy Dawkins, and Tyrone Davis (and also on Davis's hit single, "Can I Change My Mind"), but it was his playing with Koko Taylor at Chicago's first

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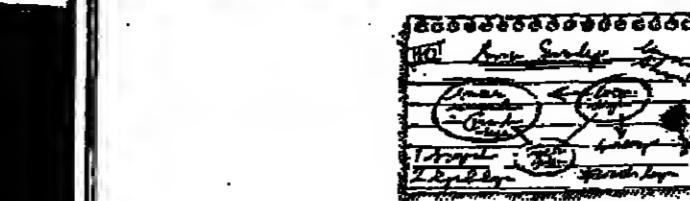
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Crépeau addressing the French National Assembly on 10 February. He collapsed there with a heart attack last week



## CULTURAL NOTES

JONATHAN DOLLIMORE

# Without death, there would be nothing

TO BE modern is to turn away from death. Or so we're told by those like Philippe Ariès, the eminent historian of death. In the most industrialised, urbanised, and technologically advanced areas of the Western world, says Ariès, "society has banished death... Everything in town goes on as if nobody died any more." Like most advocates of this view, Ariès believed that in earlier times people had a healthier attitude to death: they accepted it as part of the natural order. Death to them was "tame", whereas for us it has become so traumatic that it is to be in need of denial.

But the thinkers and artists of the past and the present suggest a different story, be it in visual arts, literature or philosophy, they tell us that death has never been tame in Western culture; and the more traumatic it has become, the more profoundly they have contemplated it.

As mayor of La Rochelle he had to deal with the economic crisis arising from the closure of the naval shipbuilding yards. His policy was mainly to attract tourists. Since the French navy no longer commissioned new ships, Crépeau started on a 10-year project to build an 18th-century boat, a reproduction of the *Hermione* which took Lafayette to America. He also had as a firm line of policy to prevent La Rochelle from growing too big. He sought always to co-operate with the other towns of the region, such as Poitiers, Angoulême and Niort. Only in his determination to have a university in La Rochelle has friction occurred with Poitiers.

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The truth of things seemed to lie in their decay and dissolution, in their ceas-

ing life, prepare yourself for death". Freud went on to disturb many with theory of the death drive which said, in brief, that "the aim of all life is death". This too was a revival of an older idea, one well understood in the Renaissance.

All this is of course alien to the analytic tradition of philosophy which mostly avoids such existential reflection; one recalls the analytic philosopher who, asked the meaning of life, never got beyond a consideration of the meaning of the word "life". But it is a way of thinking hugely influential for the artist: we need only recall the profound influence Schopenhauer's views of death had on Wagner's *Tristan*. This – in his own words – is what the musician "took" from the philosopher: "the genuine ardent longing for death, for absolute unconsciousness, total non-existence".

Without death there would be no philosophy. So said Schopenhauer, Montaigne and many others back to the Ancient World. We should add that without death there would be no art, certainly not as we think of it. For more than two millennia some artists and philosophers have gone even further and embraced the ultimate paradox: without death, which destroys everything, there would be nothing.

*Jonathan Dollimore is the author of "Death, Desire and Loss" (Penguin, £9.99)*

## Michel Crépeau

ON THE afternoon of 23 March, Michel Crépeau rose to his feet in the French National Assembly and put a question to the Minister for Economic Affairs. All the other deputies waited expectantly. Crépeau was famous for his questions. With his nasal but strong voice, his long sentences filled with pointed subordinate clauses and his constant air of banter, he invariably caused laughter amongst the many and indignation amongst a targeted few.

This time he advised the minister not to reduce the interest rates on certain savings accounts and not to leave decisions on these matters to technocrats because they affected small savers. He accompanied this advice with a remark about the remarkable way in which money had circulated in the days of President Mitterrand, and this, coming from a supporter of the socialist government, caused hilarity amongst the opposition.

But when Crépeau had finished his question, as he sat down, he collapsed. He had suffered a severe heart attack. With the television cameras still working, amidst scenes of great confusion, he was given emergency treatment by those politicians present who were qualified doctors before being taken to the Cochin hospital. It was there that he died on 30 March.

At the time of his death, Crépeau was the leader of the group calling itself Radical, Citizen and Green, a small collection of deputies representing left-wing radicals, the Citizens' Socialist party and certain of the ecologists. Deputy for La Rochelle, he had been elected as a left-wing radical (Mouvement des Radicaux de Gauche).

In one sense, Crépeau was an "ancien" in French politics. He always saw himself as a Radical in the tradition of

the party that dominated the Third Republic after 1901. His model was Édouard Herriot, who had been "the Republic in person". He came from the south-west, which had always been a Radical stronghold: he was a lawyer by profession and, most important of all, he had a local power-base, having been mayor of La Rochelle for nearly 30 years.

But he was also a "moderne". He had supported Pierre Mendes France in his attempts to make the Radical party more conscious of the changing world around them. He quarrelled with Jean-Jacques Servan-Schreiber when he was leading the party in 1971, accusing him of "neo-Gaullism" and of a liking for

materialistic socialist ideas thrust down their throats, they did not want a Jacobin state where everything was decided in Paris and they did not believe that the population of France should be treated as if they were one identical mass.

Crépeau, in this Radical tradition, believed in the presentation of local interests, in gradual change, in a secular humanism that would promote the welfare of ordinary families. He wanted centralisation and he feared the machinations of multi-national companies as much as he feared regulation from Brussels.

Therefore in the presidential elections of 1981 he announced that he was a can-

*Crépeau was both ancien and moderne. In the Radical tradition, he believed in the presentation of local interests, in gradual change, in a secular humanism*

hard-minded capitalism. He was determined that the Left should come to power and in 1972 he was co-founder of the Left Wing Radical group (with Robert Fabre, a pharmacist from the Aveyron department) and he was one of the strong supporters of the Joint Programme that was agreed between Communists, Socialists and Radicals to fight elections. He replaced Fabre in 1978 when Fabre quarrelled with the Communists.

But Crépeau did not believe that the left-wing Radicals should simply become Socialists. He claimed that the population living in the small provincial towns did not want this. They did not want dogma. In this way he would preserve the identity of his party. In the first ballot he got 2.2 per cent of the votes cast. He then announced that he supported François Mitterrand for the second ballot. In this way he maintained the existence of a "special relationship" between his Radicals and the triumphant Socialists.

He personally got his reward. He became Minister for the Environment in the first government of the new regime, which was a recognition of the interest that he had shown in ecological measures since he had become mayor of La Rochelle in 1979. There he had been the pioneer of roads that were for pedes-

drians only and of special motorless days in the town. He had some 400 bicycles specially painted and put at the disposition of the townsfolk (his enemies were able to say that many of them mysteriously disappeared). He experimented with heating by sunlight and he created a nucleus of lorries, cars and motorbikes powered by electricity.

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As was always the case with Crépeau, this order received great support and was immediately initiated by mayors in other towns of the south (Pau, Tarbes, Perpignan, Valence). But it also aroused widespread condemnation.

DOUGLAS JOHNSON

*Michel Crépeau, lawyer and politician: born Fontenay-le-Comte, France 30 October 1930; died Paris 30 March 1999.*

## GAZETTE

### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

#### DEATHS

WARREN: Dr C.B.M. Warren, widower of the late Dorothy, died peacefully at Bings Court Residential Care Home, London SW13, on 29 March 1999, aged 82 years. His funeral will be held at the Parish Church, Fobbed, Essex, on Friday 16 April at 12 noon. Enquiries regarding flowers or donations, to Mrs E. Robinson & Sons Ltd, Haslers Lane, Gil Dunmow, Essex CM8 1XS. Telephone 01371 874518.

#### ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of Kent, President, The Royal Canadian Mounted Police, attended a performance of Hamlet, Meyerbeer at the Royal Albert Hall, London SW1.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment, the Queen's Life Guard, Horse Guards, 1st and 2nd Company Scots Guards, mounted the Queen's Guard, Buckingham Palace. H.M. Queen of the United Kingdom.

#### BIRTHDAYS

Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff; Sir Jack Graham, racing driver; Sir Graham Bright, former MP; Mr Linford Christie, athlete; Sir Richard Collinge, cricketer; Sir Air Marshal Sir Geoffery Duncin, 81; Sir Richard Dobbs, former Lord Lieutenant of Co Antrim; Sir Christopher Fraine, former senior civil servant; Sir George MacDonald Fraser, writer and journalist; Sir Paul Gambaccini, disc jockey; Sir Denis Gaskin, romantic novelist; Sir Myra Greene, director of the East European Partnership, VSO; Sir Raymond Grubay, concert promoter; Sir Alec Guinness, actor; Sir Richard Hawkes, Suffragan Bishop of Crediton; Sir Barry Hills, racehorse trainer; Sir Ian Hunter, impresario; Sir Penelope Keith, actress; Sir Peter Middleton, a deputy chairman, BZW Banking Division, Bar-

#### ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Charlemagne (Charles I, Carolus Magnus) King of the Franks and Emperor of the West; 742; Hans Christian Andersen, writer; 1805; William Holman Hunt, Pre-Raphaelite painter; 1827; Emile-Edouard Charles-Antoine Zola, novelist; 1840; Sir Neville Cardus, cricket and music writer; 1889; Deaths: Samuel Finley Breese Morse, inventor; 1872; Cecil Scott Forester, novelist; 1966; Georges-Jean Raymond Pompidou, President of France; 1974. On this day: the Royal Society was granted its Charter; 1660; the Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race was first broadcast.

#### LECTURES

Victoria and Albert Museum: Grace Lees, "Women Designers in the 20th Century", 2pm.

#### QUEEN'S COUNSEL

The Queen has approved the appointment of the following as Queen's Counsel:

David Ian Heathcote Tyrell; Anthony Martin Davies; Harry Cyril Grundy; Francis Hugh Hart; David John James; John Joseph Kelly; Owen Handel Davies; Susanna Patricia Flanagan; Patrick Anthony Thomas; Robert Edward Somerville; Adrienne May Page; Anthony Patrick Russell; Elizabeth Anne Goss; Nigel Robert Wolf; Lawrence Christopher; Francis James; James Parkinson; Patrick Corbett; Charles Anthony Frederick Howard; David Lloyd Jones; Richard Leon Morris; Alan David Conradi; Michael More Wood; Nigel Douglas Jones; Christopher Anthony Nunn; David John Williams; Michael Vincent Cousins; Howard William Arthur Palmer; Brian Cive Forster; Charles Andrew Haskins; Christopher William John Phipps; Peoelus Christopher John Greenwood; Anthony James Leonard; Gerard Francis McDermott; Robin Godfrey Spender; Pauline Mary Smith; Michael John Studd; Stephen Robert And; William Shadri Davies; Matthew John Kelly; David Nahum Berstler; Robin Frankel; Christopher George Grayling; Elizabeth Ann Mack; Michael George Macmillan; Paul James Walker; Stephen Roger Williams; Philip Nicholas; Michael Eason; Christopher John Sargeant; Andrew John Simmonds; Peter Duncan Wright; Amanda Glendora Webster; Ian John Milne; Michael John Williams; Michael Moore; St John Keating; Jonathan Richard McNamee; Christopher Andrew Mark Kalkowski; Kathryn May Thirlfall; Paul Anthony Darling; Nicholas John Brown; Brian John; Michael Miles; Michael Alastair Graham; Mark Paul Phillips; David William Kinloch Anderson; Stephen Moriarty; Brian Ernest Doctor; Mark Geraint Clogau.

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 7.17pm.

United Synagogue: 0181-342 3333; Federation of Synagogues: 0181-202 2263; Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 0171-330 1653; Reform Synagogues of Great Britain: 0181-343 4731; Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue, New London Congregation: 0171-289 2573; New London Synagogue (Mazorah): 0171-323 1576.

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Post Gazette announcements to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, telephone 0171-293 2012 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2011) or fax to 0171-293 2010. Please give a daytime telephone number.

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THE BILLY Connolly joke is well known. Thomas turns up late for the Last Supper, and is met by a very merry Peter Peering round the door. Thomas sees that the disciples have all been tucking into takeaways and lager. "Thomas, I've got some bad news and some good news," says Peter. "The bad news is that Jesus has been arrested. The good news is that Judas has come into some money."

I like the joke, because it goes against the grain. Judas generally gets a bad press both in the New Testament and beyond. In Christian tradition the name Judas is synonymous with betrayal. In Dante's *Inferno* Judas belongs in the inner ring of Hell along with Cassius and Brutus, the Great Traitors. A nasty beast gnaws on them for eternity, even as they live. And yet the New Testament tells us very little about Judas. It only hints. Perhaps he was thief? Maybe a disloyal political zealot? Maybe a "double agent", in hook to Caiphas? One modern writer suggests that Jesus is "betrayed somewhere in the lost childhood of Judas". It wasn't his fault – even as they live.

And yet the New Testament writers all agree he is sick and evil, and appear to give us at least three possibilities as to why he was in it for the money; he was politically disaffected; or he was possessed by the Devil. Of course these are not in themselves competitive theories about Judas's betrayal; they may in fact turn out to be complementary.

The point is that when a gross and evil act is committed, even the gospel writers are not above the language of blame and scapegoating. In shifting the responsibility – all too easily from a tragic and suicidal human individual on to an evil and cosmic dimension – in which Satan appears to triumph over God, the Evangelists miss a trick. Judas is part of a problematic economy in the Gospels: those who are vilified by the Evangelists. The problem, ironically, reaches its peak in Holy Week, when it began on Sunday.

Judas is part of the shadow of Jesus in Holy Week. He too can cry, "Forgive us our sins"

Martyn Percy is Director of the Lincoln Theological Institute at Sheffield University

them, for they know not what they do." He is despised and rejected, a man acquainted with grief. He gets mixed up in the politics and passion of the time. Like his master, he will die, hanging from a tree. He ends with no hope or security; like Jesus, he is misunderstood, his ambitions turned to ashes.

A few years ago, the artist Laurence Whistler created a set of 13 engraved-glass windows for a church in Dorset, picturing the 12 apostles, with the 13th being for Christ.

If a man strikes you, you should turn the other cheek, says the Bible. But if your assailant is one of the athletic evangelists known as the Power Team, it might be better to run away. They're spiritual, but they are also large. By Ann Treneman



AP Wirephoto

## Fridge-freezers for Jesus

**J**ames Henderson is the largest man I have ever met. He is 6ft 5in and weighs 390lb, but those statistics cannot do justice to his extreme girthiness. He is so big, in fact, that I cannot speak. The man has just flown in from Texas. He is jet-lagged. He has bothered to come all the way to Hackney in east London to tell me what it is like to be a Musclemen for God. He has also promised to break a few concrete blocks. I should be talking to him about his life, his work, his story. Instead I am staring at his neck.

It is a tree trunk. James is saying something about God when I interrupt. "So how big is your neck?" I ask. His gold tooth flashes.

"Twenty-three inches," I stare at him some more. To fill the silence, James volunteers the fact that he has to have his clothes tailor-made. I look at his black tracksuit and wonder if he always has to wear stretchy material. Then I wonder who sat next to this guy in the plane all the way from Texas. Then I ask whether he has ever met anyone who was so big. "Well I met myself this morning when I woke up," he says rather gently. I do not want to make this man angry. It is time to snap out of it.

This is easier said than done when you are at the Kingsway International Christian Centre. This is one of the fastest-growing churches in Britain and it is located in what used to be a warehouse, next to the dog track, on an industrial estate in Hackney. There is no steeple here,

or stained glass, or pews. Instead there are 4,000 orange plastic chairs and a PA system that seems to play the New Testament on a continuous loop. The church's motto is "Raising Champions, Fulfilling Dreams", and it publishes a magazine called *Winning Ways*. On the first page there is an article called "Ten Things Single Women Should Not Do". These include "Don't Get Foolishly Passionate" and "Don't Get Into Foolish Submission".

James, plus some 25 other members of the Power Team, are providing the Easter entertainment here this year. It is a Biceps for Christ kind of show, with the men blowing up hot-water bottles, snapping baseball bats, breaking walls of concrete, bending steel bars and ripping up phone books. In between violent

outbursts, they talk about the Lord. The whole thing is a bit like evangelical wrestling. On Monday there is a special show with a mass baptism. A pool has been created and at least 400 are expected to get wet.

There are two kinds of Americans: polite ones and rude ones. James Henderson and his fellow Power Team member, Jeff Neal, are in the first category. In fact, they may be founding members of the first category. They call me "ma'am" quite a few times before we even sit down in the orange chairs for a chat. Behind us, on the walls, some way concrete blocks are stacked up, ready for demolition. The Power Team manager wants to know whether James is going to split them with his forearm, elbow or hand. It is decided that this one is for the elbow. I am told that one Power Team member has perfected the art of breaking blocks of ice with his head.

James introduces me to Jeff Neal, Man of Steel. He is relatively tiny, at 6ft 2in and 335lb. He was brought up a Christian, but found his own particular divine moment at age 13. Since then he has been "walking with the Lord". Both he and James talk in an evangelical kind of way.

When something important has happened in their lives, it has been "divine intervention". They say that the Lord always picks you up when you are down. They say that they are in the Power Team as a way of getting our attention, and then they make a hit to save our souls.

I ask about drugs. It is the obvious question in the circumstances. Jeff used to play professional Amer-

ican football. He is a champion weight-lifter. James is the four-times World Heavyweight Lifetime Drug-Free Power-Lifting Champion. Just try getting that on a name badge. But, really, what about drugs? "No! And I never have. My strength is enhanced naturally," insists James. Is he sure? "Well, I've drunk a couple of beers in my life," he says. "That was before the Lord," says Jeff. "You don't drink at all now."

They advise me how to blow up a hot-water bottle, and then James stands up and walks stiffly towards the stacked concrete. I ask why he is limping. He says that he has come all the way from Texas and is stiff. I ask him if I am irritating him. He says that he cannot be irritated and taps my arm in a sort of a power josh. (Later, I check for bruises.)

James says crashing through bricks is all about technique, not strength. "You need consistent drive," he says. He stands behind the bricks and says "Pray for me." I think this may have been a joke. Then there is a blur, a thud and a crash. The pulpit area is littered in concrete. The team manager tells me that it is far more impressive when the concrete is on fire. I pause. How does that happen exactly? Divine intervention? Nope, he says - lighter fuel.

*The Power Team appears at 6.30pm every night until Monday 5 April, at the Kingsway International Christian Centre, 57 Waterden Road, Hackney. Free bus service from Hackney Town Hall and Stratford. The hotline is on 0181-525 0000*

## 'I had two mad children to deal with'

Disruptive behaviour in the classroom is on the rise – and starting ever earlier. Many teachers are throwing in the towel. By Jack O'Sullivan

WHEN JOE was upset, he threw chairs around the classroom. "He would just go up to children and punch them in the stomach," recalls his teacher. Paul was nearby. "He would never sit down. He would rip up other children's work. He would run off whenever he could. He was also smelly, so other children made fun of him. Basically, I had two mad children to deal with."

These were just two eight-year-olds in a London junior school, among 28 others in whom this teacher tried to instil the basics. She has given up teaching now. She became so depressed at having to struggle to maintain order, never mind teach, and disillusioned that she could do so little for Joe or Paul.

"It was believed that Joe had been sexually abused in strange circumstances," she recalls. "His mother was into black magic. Paul's mother was a drug addict in and out of prison. There was a suspicion that his stepfather had been abusing him. I finally got both of them 'statemented' which meant that they would get some external expert help. By that time they had already been in the school for four years."

Such tales of hellish classes are increasingly common, in both junior and secondary schools. This week they have been much discussed at the various teachers' conferences during the Easter holidays. The whole country seems to be affected.

In Cleveland one class has been banned from playing football against other schools, after throwing stones at their opponents. In Newcastle, a pupil aimed a firework at a teacher's

car just missing her. In Nottingham, a teacher recalls an incident that was particularly dangerous for a colleague. "He was doing supply filling in for the day at a secondary school. He asked the class to do their work and every other word from them was a swear word. 'I'm not effing doing that,' they said. So there was no way he was going to get any work out of them. At the end of the day, he asked them to put their chairs on their desks for the cleaners. Next thing, he found all the desks had been pushed forward and all the chairs collapsed around him. He could have been badly injured."

These stories are not confined to

plains. It is a problem that really makes me question whether I should stay on as a teacher."

The most surprising aspect of the problem is the number of children who are disruptive at junior level, yet their cases receive little special attention.

Here, a teacher speaks of her probationary year at a junior school in Suffolk. "I had one little boy who would sit under the table hitting children's legs. It took a long time to get him under control. Another boy would sit in the corner, making high-pitched noises. Another was an obsessive compulsive, who insisted on opening and shutting the door and would occasionally get very

knew. I counselled the child in my break times and after school, but there are so many children needing this type of help, you cannot afford to do it for long. In the same class, one pupil beat his own hands so hard into the wall that they bled."

"It took me two years to get this class properly under control. But, after I left, everything fell to pieces. It was either because the new teachers did not have the control skills, or because there was not enough professional support."

There are solutions both in terms of better discipline and expert psychological support. Many London teachers, for example, sing the

anything is done," explains the former head of modern languages at a London comprehensive. "I know of a student who is a Zairean refugee. She witnessed a third of her family being shot. She has had no grief counselling. She is very insecure having arrived in Britain under the label 'asylum seeker'. She has had nothing done for her. She is in class and, in truth, she is off her head."

The problems will not be solved, solely by psychological support. All of these teachers spoke of failure at the top of schools to implement coherent, well-structured disciplinary procedures. They talked of feeling abandoned by headteachers and senior staff when dealing with disruptive pupils, so that in the end expulsion was the only option. They commented on how different life could be, highlighting schools with strong heads, where good support from year heads and form tutors has nipped many problems in the bud.

"It is very demoralising and distressing," says the former head of modern languages. "I remember a girl throwing a box of books against a wall, and having to warn the others to duck. They could have been seriously injured. The girl was eventually permanently excluded. We discovered she had been abused. However, by the time she was excluded, the mental scarring was so deep, she could not function in a school. No one picked her problems up. No one wanted to pick them up. These days, we have not got time."

*Names have been changed to disguise identities*

*'The problem children needed one-to-one teaching and access to a psychologist. They did not get that help, so the whole class suffered'*

difficult inner city areas. Jon Payne, a former civil servant, has spent the past year working as a supply English teacher in affluent parts of Berkshire and Hampshire. "I came across a complete lack of respect for an individual. I had worked in the independent sector, where it was possible to teach rather than simply maintain order. I had also taught in the poorer parts of Hartlepool, where you might expect there to be problems. Yet even though those areas were depressed, children seemed better behaved. In the past year, though, I have noticed an incredible deterioration in standards and general lack of discipline.

angry and punch people. "This was a mainstream class of eight- and nine-year-olds. They needed much more input than I could offer. They needed one-to-one teaching and access to a psychologist, but they did not get that help, so the whole class suffered."

An inner London teacher, who has also dropped out, speaks of her distress at needy younger children missing out on the skilled support they require. "One child threw chairs around the class. I discovered that his parents' marriage had split up, but they were still living near each other and the father was very violent. It was the only behaviour he

praises of the Tavistock Clinic, which specialises in child psychotherapy. "An expert can assess a child and then go back to the teacher and explain the root of the problems and how best to approach the child. But it is so hard to get a referral," says one London teacher. A governor of a London junior school explains: "We really value help from the Tavistock, but at a time when our numbers are doubling, we have had to halve the budget for such services."

Getting help, even if there is money, can also be painfully slow. "A large file of documentation is usually required, which means that a problem is often very advanced before



*Violent children often come from violent homes* Paul Massey

# SCIENCE

Can a laboratory in York halt the march of the tiny pests that cause £100m worth of damage every year? By Simon Hadlington

## The Day of the Aphids

**A**ngela Douglas is not like the rest of us. When she examines the underside of the leaves of her broad beans and discovers a teeming population of tiny aphids, she does not look aghast and instinctively reach for the insecticide gun. On the contrary, these aphids are being encouraged to thrive, because the broad beans are not in Dr Douglas's vegetable plot; they are being grown under carefully controlled conditions in a laboratory at the University of York.

Dr Douglas is leading a research team that is asking some fundamental questions about aphid biology. And the answers that are being unearthed could present new ways of tackling this major pest – which is not only the scourge of the gardener, but also causes an estimated £100m of damage to commercial crops each year in the UK. The aphid is simply Britain's most economically destructive insect pest.

There are around 4,400 species of aphid worldwide, although the vast majority are in fact innocuous. In this country there is a handful of species which are a nuisance, and these become a problem to gardeners and farmers throughout the summer: from May onwards, aphids damage plants first by feeding on the plant's sap and thereby taking away its nutrients, and secondly by transmitting viruses that attack plants.

Aphids feed on nutrients that travel around the plant in vessels called sieve-tubes. The aphid inserts specialised needle-like mouthparts – styles – into the plant and plugs into a sieve-tube. Once in place, the aphid can remain for several days, imbibing the plant sap at its leisure.

For the York biologists it is at this point that things get interesting. Plant sap is nutritionally poor, consisting mainly of sucrose, a few amino acids and a small handful of minerals. In particular, the sap is deficient in the so-called essential amino acids. Amino acids are the building blocks of proteins, which form the machinery of every living cell. There are 20 amino acids: animals can synthesise 11 of them from raw ingredients. However, the remaining nine, the essential amino acids, cannot be synthesised; they must be obtained intact from another source.

Clearly, on its own, plant sap – the entomological equivalent of junk food – is insufficient to sustain an aphid. Nevertheless, it is all that the aphid eats. So the question is: how does the aphid make up for the sap's lack of essential amino acids?

Dr Douglas believes she knows the answer. And the key is this: when you kill an aphid you kill not just one organism but millions – because every species of aphid known has about 10 million bacteria crammed inside its body cavity.

These bacteria belong to the genus Buchnera. They are about two-thousandths of a millimetre across, are spherically shaped and cannot survive for any length of time outside the insect's body. They live



There are around 4,400 species of aphid worldwide, but in Britain the few harmful species manage to wreak havoc in gardens and fields. *Planet Earth Pictures*

Inside relatively large cells of the aphid, called mycetocytes. A single mycetocyte may contain several thousand bacteria, each surrounded by a cell membrane. The mycetocytes are packed tightly into the insect's body cavity.

Remarkably, the bacteria are passed on from mother to offspring. Most female aphids reproduce parthenogenetically – that is, the eggs are not fertilised by males. As the egg develops within the mature female, bacteria are expelled from the mycetocyte cells by a process called exocytosis. They then migrate to the nearby egg cell where they are enveloped, or "endocytosed". In this way, each egg cell receives about 100

bacteria from the mother. So each aphid offspring emerges into the world ready-equipped with its own population of bacteria.

"Here at York we have been trying to establish whether the bacteria are important to the aphids' survival," says Dr Douglas. "And if they are, what role do they play?"

The first step was to eliminate the bacteria and see what happened to the adult aphids. "To do this we fed aphids with antibiotics the moment they were born," says Dr Douglas. "By examining the aphids under the microscope and testing them for the presence of bacterial DNA, we were satisfied that we had obtained bacteria-free insects."

These aphids were allowed to feed on plants and their growth and reproductive rate were compared with a normal population.

"We found that the aphids without the bacteria grew very poorly," says Dr Douglas. "Many reached adulthood at less than one-fifth of their normal size. And whereas untreated insects produced between 50 and 90 offspring over three weeks, the aphids treated with antibiotic produced either no offspring at all, or stillborn offspring, or young that died after a day or two. It is quite clear that the aphids have an absolute requirement for the bacteria."

Dr Douglas hypothesised that the bacteria were providing their host with the essential amino acids that were absent from the plant sap. To test this, the researchers again used antibiotic-treated insects. They fed them with the raw ingredients they needed to synthesise amino acids, tagged with a radioactive label. After a period of time they analysed the contents of the aphids' bodies to see which amino acids were present.

"We found that aphids with bacteria contained the full range of amino acids, both essential and non-essential," says Dr Douglas.

"On the other hand, the insects treated with antibiotics had no essential amino acids at all. It seems clear that the bacteria are synthe-

sising essential amino acids for their host organism."

But the story of Buchnera's indirect role in maintaining the aphid's pest status does not end with its nutritional munificence. Aphids transmit viruses between plants; one class of economically important plant viruses spread by aphids is the luteoviruses. Virus particles are ingested by the aphid in plant sap. They travel into the gut, then are transported across the gut wall into the body cavity. Eventually, the virus comes into contact with cells of the aphid's salivary glands and gets transported into the salivary duct, becoming excreted with the saliva when the aphid feeds.

At the Research Institute for Plant Protection in Wageningen, in the Netherlands, Dr Hans van den Heuvel has discovered that luteoviruses bind to a particular protein inside the aphid's body, which enables them to survive the journey between one plant and another. This protein, it turns out, is produced by Buchnera. It is suspected that the bacterial protein somehow protects the virus particle from attack by enzymes inside the aphid's body.

When the bacteria are experimentally eliminated by antibiotics, the aphids are a much less efficient transmitter of the virus. One obvious question arising from both the British and the Dutch work is whether new aphicides can be developed based on the relationship between the bacteria and the insect. "Clearly, antibiotics could kill the insects, but that is self-evidently unacceptable as there are already too many antibiotics around," says Dr Douglas, who stresses that the work at York with antibiotics has been done under strictly controlled laboratory conditions.

However, Dr Douglas is convinced that detailed biochemical investigation of the membrane that surrounds the individual bacteria within the mycetocyte could well reveal a signalling system – a protein, say – unique to this partnership, which could provide a highly specific target for a pest-control agent.

That remains a research project for the future. In the meantime, those of us who wish to protect our roses will have to continue to rely on the more conventional methods of zapping these irritating, yet fascinating pests. Or else hope that it is a good year for ladybirds.

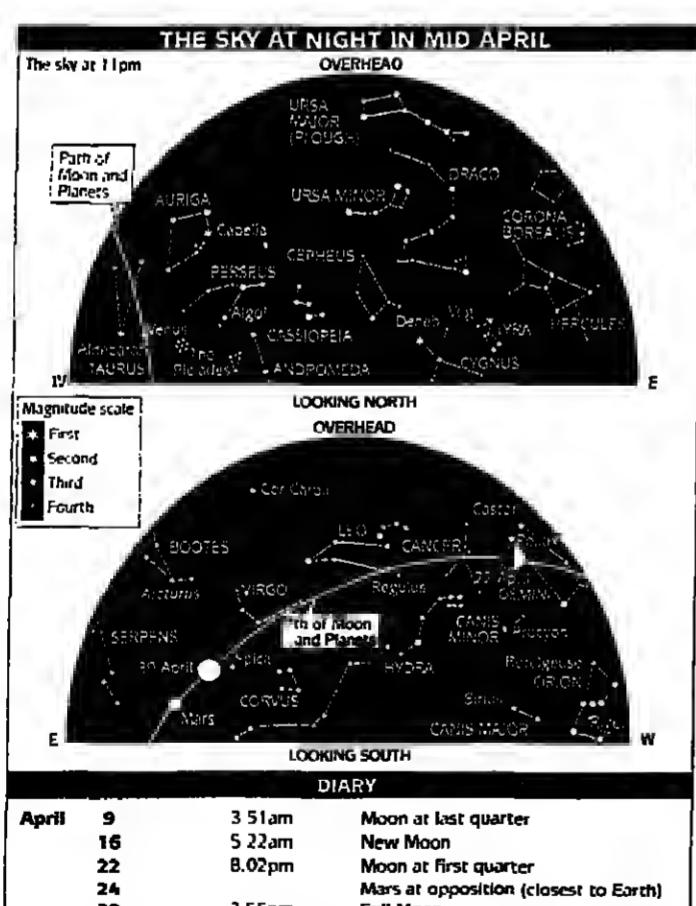
### STARS AND PLANETS: APRIL

ON 24 APRIL, Mars reaches its closest point to the Earth this year. You can't miss seeing it in the sky – it shines brightly all night, an orange-red, twinkling point of light. Mars is red because it literally is rusty. Particles of iron in its now-dry deserts were once washed by water, the elixir of life. How much water – and when it flowed – is not yet known. But we shall almost certainly find out within the next 10 years, and, in parallel, the answer to the Big Question: was there ever life on Mars?

Mars is now under invasion from our robotic planetary probes. The Mars Global Surveyor is currently collecting unprecedentedly detailed images of the planet from Mars's orbit, while NASA's Mars Climate Orbiter is on course to reach the Red Planet on 23 September. Once in orbit, it will study Mars's water distribution, as well as keeping a weather eye on the Martian atmosphere.

A fellow NASA probe, the Mars Polar Lander, is scheduled to rendezvous with the planet on 3 December. On its way down, it will drop off two tiny probes designed to penetrate two metres into the ground below Mars's southern icecap. The Polar Lander itself, equipped with a robotic arm for geological investigations, will also be able to dig down into the subsurface. Scientists hope that these "excavations" – the first ever on another world – will reveal 100,000 years of Martian history.

This is just the beginning. The Japanese Nozomi craft will reach Mars in 2004; and NASA is planning combined Lander-Rover missions to be launched in 2001, 2003 and 2005. The first will deliver a robot aircraft to fly over the surface of Mars exactly



100 years after the Wright brothers took off at Kitty Hawk.

These missions are already provoking some hard thinking. The jewel in the crown, of course, would be to discover signs of life in the Martian rocks. But would we recognise it even if it were staring us in the face? The tiny nodules in the famous "Martian meteorite" are still contentious, despite years of study. After the initial excitement surrounding these claimed "fossilised bacteria",

most scientists ruled them out as being too small. Yet "nanobacteria" of a similar size have recently been discovered on Earth – so we may have to think again. A few scientists go so far as to believe that primitive organisms may still live on the Red Planet, from evidence collected by the Viking probes 20 years ago. Whatever the truth, there will be great care taken to sterilise the rock samples so that – if there is life on Mars – it won't contaminate life on Earth.

As for the stars, the spring constellations Leo and Virgo are holding centre stage. In our annual trek around the Sun, we have reached a point where our night-time "window" has moved past winter constellations such as Orion and Canis Major. These are now setting in the west before midnight. Follow the curve of the handle of the Plough (part of Ursa Major) downwards to hit the red giant Arcturus – fourth-brightest star in the sky, and a sure sign that spring is here.

The other object putting on a good show is this month's "star", the planet Mars, recognisable from its red colour. The other planets – Mercury, Jupiter and Saturn – are all too close to the Sun to be visible.

The conventional wisdom until the Sixties was that when cells were placed in a suitable culture medium they would continue to proliferate for ever – they were essentially "immortal". But it was wrong. When human cells from connective tissue, for example, are cultured, they will go through about 50 divisions and then stop dividing. And the older the person from whom they are taken, the fewer times they will divide. It seems that telomeres are doing the

## Hunt for the secret of immortality

CHANGES THAT occur with ageing are numerous and include increased risk of cancer, poorer wound healing, a less effective immune system and an increasing interest in why and how we age. There is no shortage of theories; they range from assuming there is a biological clock that winds us down, to placing the blame on cells losing their ability to multiply.

My own view has always been the "motor car" theory, namely that parts just wear out; just look at my knees. A nice example comes from elephants, some of whom die of old age when their teeth are so worn down that they can no longer eat. But the hot focus at present is on the telomeres. Telomeres? Hardly a term in everyday use, but it could become as familiar in relation to ageing as serotonin is to depression.

Telomeres are specialised DNA sequences at the ends of each chromosome. One of their functions is to protect the chromosome from damage by chemicals that could break it down. When the cell divides the chromosomes are duplicated, and there is a special enzyme that is involved in duplicating the telomeres. However, this enzyme is not present in all cells and its absence may be linked to ageing, for the telomeres may be used to count how many times a cell has divided.

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counting, for each time one of those cells in culture divides, the end of the telomere is not properly duplicated, so that the telomere gets shorter and shorter with each division. The evidence for this, and it is a lovely experiment, is to add the enzyme that synthesises telomeres – telomerase – to the cells in culture: they then become "immortal" and will multiply indefinitely.

If you eat little you will live longer – I like the idea of food being dangerous

But cells stopping dividing in culture are a long way from the multiple aspects of ageing in the human body and seem hard to relate, for example, to impairment in thinking, memory and physical strength.

But very new work is suggestive. What they did was to make mice that had no telomerase, and so when the cells divided, their telomeres got shorter. After several generations of these mice being inbred, they

showed premature greying and hair loss; they were ageing prematurely and had, for example, reduced capacity to repair wounds. There were also suggestive similarities with a human condition, known as Werner's syndrome, that results in premature ageing: growth at adolescence is reduced and sufferers have the disabilities of old age in their twenties. Most of them die before 50.

But telomeres are just part of the hunt for immortality. There is a mutant fruit fly – a favourite model for genetics – called *Meuselelab*, which lives one-third longer than normal, but no one knows why. Even more striking is a worm – another model – which lives four times as long. This longevity is related to insulin and its effect on metabolism, and is thought to be similar to the effect of low-calorie intake being able significantly to increase the life span of rodents. But it is unlikely that there is just one cause of ageing. An attractive approach is the network model, which aims to take into account a whole range of processes, for example mutations in genes, and toxic substances produced by the cells themselves, that will in the end lead to the death of the cell.

Current evidence suggests that if you eat less you live longer – I like the idea that food is dangerous. And it is wise to be careful about your lifestyle, particularly how much exercise you take. For while telomeres and genes have a part to play, the evidence is that environmental influences can profoundly influence the outcomes of ageing. As a cyclist in London, should I rethink my attachment to my bike? Certainly not.

The writer is professor of biology as applied to medicine at University College London



LEWIS WOLPERT



## MUSIC

## Coming in, loud and clear

**Wilco's new album *Summerteeth* is set to push them into the big time. Why are they so damned cynical, then? Perhaps it's because they've been here before.** By Ben Thompson

Wilco mainstays Jeff Tweedy (twinkly, weatherbeaten) and Jay Bennett (burly, dreadlocked) are savoring a momentary pause between engagements. A beleaguered two-man colony of battered denim amid the lurid primary colours of a London radio station foyer; they take the opportunity to bolt a grim meal of toxic fast-food. Someone notes sympathetically that there's only a certain amount of that stuff you can eat. Tweedy responds sardonically: "I guess I would be living proof that that is not the case".

The charismatically rumppled singer speaks in a phlegmy mid-western drawl. Pitched somewhere between a croak and a whisper, it's the kind of voice you have to smoke really hard to keep. Listen to him sing on the current Wilco album *Summerteeth* and that act of sacrifice will seem wholly justified. This is a record whose remarkable poignancy and richness recalls Phil Spector's comment about "little symphonies for the kids", but with guitars and piano instead of a 48-piece orchestra.

The dictionary definition of Wilco's name might be "c&b: abbrev for I will comply", but the music of this Chicago-based quartet somehow combines resignation with defiance and melancholy with joy. *Summerteeth* wraps its nuggets of downbeat personal revelation in some of the most uplifting music imaginable. And Wilco's new single "Can't Stand It" is poised to take its magnificently depressing chorus – "You know it's all beginning to feel like its ending / No love's as random as God's love / I can't stand it" – into the unfamiliar terrain of the Top 40. It's not exactly "Agadoo doo doo eat pineapple shake the tree," but it'll do for the moment.

Washing down his foul meal with healing draughts of herbal tea, Jay Bennett considers the limitations of the pop radio promotional interview. "You'd think it would be liberating" he sighs, "working with just a microphone and a voice: you don't perceive your audience, there's nothing to be intimidated by, the opportunity to have fun in that context is immense". He shakes his head mournfully, "but the DJ's don't take advantage of it". "They only want to know how we get on with Billy Bragg", says Tweedy sadly. "I mean, like, who cares?"

Anyone who thought Wilco were going to be swept off their feet by the flood tide of adulation currently inundating *Summerteeth* would be well advised to think again. They may have been told their new record is "this year's *Deserter's Songs*" (ie, the record that somehow magically translates critical kudos into actual status without losing its mystery) so many times they now prefer to refer to Mercury Rev's 1998 landmark as "last year's *Summerteeth*", but they aren't counting their chickens until they're in the oven.

"This is the one," Tweedy says warily. "We've been told that so many times. After a while you don't listen anymore, well you do, but only because it's enteraining... When we put our first record out, we were told we were going to be the next Hootie and the Blowfish".

Wilco's slightly overwhelming 1994 debut *AM* had its faults, but surely it wasn't that bad? "It'll take an 11 million record insult", Bennett snorts derisively. "If that's your way of insulting me, sure, go ahead – insult me all day."

Wilco's band banter has a bracingly stringent quality. Perhaps it's the isol-



**SUMMERTTEETH**, THE third instalment in Wilco's quest to distil the early 1970s moment when American rock's explosive prime was replaced by pretty pop melodies is being justifiably lauded. Their melodic gift is now matched by singer Jeff Tweedy's new facility for lyrics of disaffection. But to those who saw them the last time they played this venue, Wilco will forever be defined by a spontaneous moment of rock'n'roll warfare, the exact inverse of Iggy Pop's notorious face-off with a crowd of riled Hell's Angels; the night Tweedy became so

incensed with the reserve of a Sunday night London audience that he leapt into their midst and physically shook them into moving. This is their return to the scene of that crime.

As before, it's the sharp-featured Tweedy who provides stage presence. The reticent nature of his bandmates reminds you why that previous Empire crowd, like this one, only shuffled its feet. The band have improved, become more varied. Guitars squeal and harmonies spiral in the whirl of "Hotel Arizona", a Woody Guthrie song is turned into wired,

## LIVE

SHEPHERD'S BUSH EMPIRE LONDON

crunching country. But still, the tension we hang on is what will Tweedy do?

He offers no clue. When we clap along to "Red-Eyed and Blue", he laughs. But, clanging his guitar angrily at the next song's end, he seems to mime going through the motions. Finally, he speaks. "Was anybody here last time?" Scattered cheers. "I'm on medication now."

The rest of the show becomes an apology for

imagined sins. He says thanks so many times it's almost parodic, claims he's hardly dared speak into a microphone since, mock-threatens "I'm starting to get mad again" at a good-humoured heckler.

Rock'n'roll as warfare has deteriorated into rock'n'roll as act of contrition. Needless as it is, it seems to ease the mood of everyone present, all the better to respond to the suckerpunch which sums up *Summerteeth*'s new strengths: "She's a Jar". A steel guitar strokes upward as Tweedy sings this apparent love song with the lightest touch of hate, and the tension of its

infamous, inevitable last line ratchets up with every soaring harmony, till, perfectly, he almost trips over it, lets it tumble awkwardly out: "She begs me not to hit her." It's the hint of darkness that has lifted their perfectly constructed pop songs into life. They're only a little nearer the equally mysterious chemistry needed to make those songs blossom on stage. Perhaps, in the end, they're too modest to match the parade of ghostly hellraisers they adore. At least Tweedy no longer needs to shake us by the throat as they try.

NICK HASTED

tion of their position – marooned between the blockbuster mediocrities of Hootie, the Dave Matthews band and their ilk and the arthouse credibility of Smog and Bonnie "Prince" Billy.

"If that guy likes Mariah Carey as much as he claims," Tweedy says of the latter, "he should put his money where his mouth is and get her to sing on his next record". "He should get someone to sing on his next record," Bennett concurs catchily. "Last time I saw him play live he put 1500 people to sleep".

It must be rather intimidating to bare your soul to such a demanding audience. Does Tweedy ever feel vulnerable in front of his bandmates, when he first sings them songs like "How to Fight Loneliness" or "When You Wake Up Feeling Old"?

Bennett's feelings are hurt. "I don't

need to hear Jeff's lyrics to know him as well as I know him," he insists.

"There's a certain power that comes from it, too," Tweedy maintains, "having a conversation with your friends and sharing a part of yourself, and it's not a one-way dialogue. Because you get stuck back from them musically".

He certainly does. Where 1997's equally gripping *Being There* was a ramshackle bar-band elegy, *Summerteeth* spirals and quavers like a great lost girl-group album. Wilco do not like to think about how they got from one place to another.

"It's not a good story," Bennett insists. "It's not like we started our new record and it sounded just like *Being There*, so we went to the pub and decided to make a Sixties soul record".

But that's not a good story.

"No it's not," Tweedy agrees. "That's *The Commitments*."

"We're more like Inuit ivory carvers", the singer continues, somewhat mystifyingly. "We hold the magnetic tape in our hands and think what's on it and then we let it come out".

This analogy turns out to be less facetious than it initially seems. "Inuit stone carvers believe there are things captured inside a rock," Tweedy explains, "so they start carving without any idea of what they're aiming at, and then they find a bird in there. I think that's a really accurate way to describe the creative process."

"We took a rock and chiseled away until we found the big tooth," Bennett enthuses. "A giant molar!"

"Con't Stand It" (Reprise, single) is out on Monday. Wilco appear on 'Later' on Friday 16 April

Gram Parsons – what the hell is this? Which in a way is kind of gratifying. Because if people read about us being a country-rock band and then they go out and buy *Summerteeth*, I can't imagine them not being confused."

"People are confused," Bennett concludes mournfully. "Just not in the way that we want them to be."

And what way would that be exactly?

"It would be nice for people to be confused to the extent that they just accept everything for what it was. [Jay] assumes the voice of everyone! I'm so confused by all this music. I'm just going to listen to it and decide what I like."

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## LYRIC SHEETS

MARTIN NEWELL

His Holiness the Pope is heading for a chart smash with a new CD released this week. Entitled 'Abba Pater' (Aramaic and Latin for 'Father') the album is described as having a bewildering array of rock, African beats and 'ecclesiastical rap'.

## The Pope's Album



"...Yeah like, before we made this one We prayed a lot, of course we did And while the hokie retuned the grand I broke bread with the backing band

And since the theme's traditional, The A&R man quietly said, 'Forget about the studio tricks He wants those harps up in the mix'.

At first the guys were skeptical It stank of Deus ex machina. The bass-player threw a little fit And wanted to redo his hit.

We had to move the choir around The chancel had a 'live room' sound. But tapestries around the wall Had made it more like 'village hall'.

I sent the Papa! Legate out With DAT machine to sample stuff And screens held up by altar boys To try and damp the background noise

The good thing with this album is We've learnt at last that 'less-is-more'. Too many churchmen these days think You've got to have the kitchen sink

But could they take it on the road With what... a choir? A five-piece band? When I was starting, in my teens We just made do with tambourines.

And if, as often happened then The Guv said, 'I can't hear a single'. He made the congregation sing You couldn't just remix the thing

And look, I know it's boring but The stadium ballad has to stay It keeps the punters hanging there Like ad captandum vulgas" yeah?"

\*to appeal to the crowd

## Goodbye gangsta, bonjour Derrida

DJ Spooky knows his post-structuralists. As any hip-hop producer should. By Fiona Sturges



Paul Miller aka DJ Spooky: 'There are no rules any more'

the sounds endeavour to follow what he calls "a hidden musical continuum" that exists in all music, from classical, funk and blues to hip-hop and jungle.

While the title may smack of posturing, Miller insists that the album has a theoretical as well as an experimental basis. It contains unusually enlightened lyrics that allude to Derrida and Barthes, as opposed to the gangsta-addled prose of his hip-hop contemporaries. Track titles such as "Post-Human Sophistry" and "Dialectical Transformation" self-consciously underline Miller's academic standpoint, but its musical styles reveal an almost fanatic eclecticism.

Through the diffuse nature of *Riddim Warfare*, Miller's influences are also reflected in the selection of contributors to *Riddim Warfare*. They include Sonic Youth's guitarist Thurston Moore, Wu Tang Clan's Killah Priest, the sonic scientist Arto Lindsay and video artist Moriko Mori.

Miller wants to bridge the gap between academia and pop culture by whatever means possible. He wrote the score for the hip-hop movie *Slam*, which won the Grand Prize at the 1998 Sundance Film Festival. He is also a contributing editor to the monthly art magazine *Artbyte* and a regular participant in exhibitions of electronic media.

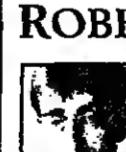
The hotch-potch of media, styles and voices in Miller's work can also be traced to his background. Growing up in Washington DC, he was exposed to all sorts of different music: "I grew up watching Go-Go bands such as Junkyard Band and Trouble Funk, but there was also a big hardcore scene with Bad Brains and Minor Threat."

In the late Eighties he relocated to Maine to study for two degrees – one in French literature, the other in philosophy – and he became interested in the relationship between literature and music.

"It seemed that themes in textual deconstruction reflected what was happening in electronic music. I got into arguments with professors about urban narratives – why we got to pull apart the work of great literary figures, but when it was Chuck D, that was urban so we couldn't discuss it."

By 1988, Miller had launched his own radio programme at college, called *Dr Seuss's*

## ROBERT HANKS ON TV



'NYPD Blue', always at the soapy end of the cop show spectrum, has now been reduced to pure sud

PAGE 18

## MARC ALMOND OPEN ALL NIGHT

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# A little rain on the Parade

**It may claim to be a celebration of the best of British music since the War, but will Nicholas Kenyon and George Benjamin's 'Endless Parade' series of concerts really do our composers justice? By Bayan Northcott**

No doubt planning concerts and festivals is a mixed pleasure at best, in which the satisfaction of setting up contrasts and connections, devising ideal programmes, bringing forth fresh talent, and so on, is ever-threatened by practical problems over performance, venues and funding – not to say anxiety as to how press and public may ultimately respond.

Which are just some of the reasons why Nicholas Kenyon, BBC Controller of Millennial Projects, and George Benjamin, Artistic Consultant to the *Soundings the Century* project on Radio 3, are unlikely to get much fun out of what follows.

But some critical questions need to be asked about the culminating series of the 20th-century retrospective they have been presiding over these last three years, and which opened at the Royal Festival Hall two nights ago as *Endless Parade: Classics of British Music since 1945* – or, as they put it in the April edition of *BBC Music Magazine*, "a month-long celebration, around the country and on Radio 3, of the best of British music since the war".

Of course this could be disregarded as the kind of marketing flim-flam that producers evidently have to put up to BBC management these days to get their programmes out at all. But Kenyon and Benjamin are not cynical types: they manifestly care about all of the music that they have selected for the 15 live and broadcast events scheduled between this week and 3 May.

So that one has to ask how a series can claim to represent the "best" of British music since 1945, when it is exclusively concerned with concert music and opera – disregarding not only chamber and instrumental works, film scores and light music, but also jazz and the kind of esoteric pop featured in *Mixing It*, which are also residual concerns of Radio 3?

How can it claim to comprise "classics" when a commendable proportion of the choices are of recent stuff by the up-and-coming young? ("Classics in 30 years' time, perhaps.") And how can it claim to be comprehensively "British" when the programmes include only a handful of Scottish composers and virtually nothing from Wales?

Now, the planners might riposte, it is easy for a critic to carp from the sidelines, but 15 events, amounting to some 35 hours in all, is not that much in which to encompass the multifarious developments of some 54 years. Moreover, the public concerts in the series, on the South Bank, in Manchester and in Belfast, need to include the odd lollipop – Britten's *Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*, say, or Malcolm Arnold's *Four Scottish Dances* – if they are to attract larger audiences, and complaining that less hackneyed works by these composers should have been preferred is beside the point.

In the event, there are four Britten choices, including the *Four Sea Interludes* – since the impact of *Peter Grimes* was the starting-point for the whole concept – and a complete concert performance of *Death*



Ralph Vaughan Williams is well served by 'Endless Parade', but what about other composers? Reuters

in Venice. Tippett also gets a full-length opera, *King Priam*, and no fewer than seven other items, thanks to the incorporation of a Nash Ensemble Tippett concert (in fact recorded last month). Of the other big names, Vaughan Williams has three works and Walton and Birtwistle two apiece – the latter's Trumpet Concerto, *Endless Parade* lending its title to the whole series. But the remaining figures are strictly confined to one work each. And what, Kenyon and Benjamin might ask, could be fairer than that?

Well, it depends. Broadly speaking, there are three different principles upon which such a retrospective could be structured.

The first is simply to collect together those pieces that have most successfully survived in the repertoire, thus implicitly

endorsing current views of the whole period. The second is more historical: to focus, say, decade by decade, upon what seemed the most typical and significant at the time. And the third would be to take a critical look at both current and historical views, reviving unjustly neglected or misunderstood pieces and aspiring to a fresh vision of the entire era.

On the whole, the planners seem to have plumped for the first approach which, in so far as it also runs to taking in some noteworthy recent arrivals, is fine; less so, in that it has meant assigning time to works such as Vaughan Williams's Sixth Symphony, Walton's Second and Tippett's Triple Concerto, which are constantly heard anyway.

So how might the alternative approaches have worked out? Historically,

it would have been salutary to revisit the British milieu of the mid-Forties in which the young Britten was widely felt to be brilliant, yet somehow lacking in substance and Walton was still regarded as the acceptable face of modernism: in which the Gallic turns of Lennox Berkeley represented the permissible limit of Continental influence and the conservative symphonism of Edmund Rubbra stood for a continuing mainstream.

Neither Rubbra nor Berkeley features in *Endless Parade*, nor any of the more modernist young men who made the running in the Fifties – Peter Racine Fricker, Iain Hamilton, Humphrey Stacey – though the most substantial arrival of the decade, Robert Simpson, should have been included on any count.

Of the still more adventurous gen-

eration who rose with the accession of William Glock to the BBC in 1959, Goehr, Maxwell Davies, Birtwistle and Richard Rodney Bennett are included, but not Nicholas Maw or Hugh Wood, and a chance has been missed yet again to reassess the tumultuous early output of Malcolm Williamson. Some notable arrivals of the Seventies and Eighties are also missing: Michael Finnissy, Simon Holt, Mark Anthony Turnage and, not least, Judith Weir.

But then the inclusion of only six women composers in the entire series would be grounds for yet another black mark were it not for a welcome act of restitution. One of the most finely sustained and austere lyrical scores of her entire vast output, Elisabeth Lutyens's *Quincunx* for voices and large orchestra, was rapturously received at the 1962 Cheltenham Festival and subsequently released on a too-long-deleted LP – and yet it has never, ever received a London performance.

Its inclusion in the concert at Maida Vale studios on 9 April (to be broadcast on 3 May) should serve to remind listeners that the international post-war enterprise to create a serialist *lingua franca* for new music – utterly discredited though it may currently seem – was capable in the right hands of yielding a haunting distinction, and no wonder Lutyens proved such an influential mother-figure to the subsequent *Glock* generation.

A few more rediscoveries of this calibre would surely have spiced up *Endless Parade* no end. Yet a critical reconsideration of a whole period involves more than just individual finds; it depends crucially upon what is programmed with what. We are after all, supposed to be living in a post-modern flux in which the old notions of modernism and conservatism, of style and genre, of what makes a balanced concert programme even, have dissolved in a new relativity.

Thus, while some continue to exalt the transcendental modernism of a Brian Ferneyhough, others no longer feel shy about confessing to an affection for a long-disregarded ultra-conservative such as Gerald Finzi (a composer we now discover from Stephen Banfield's searching recent biography, who was working from as carefully formulated an ideology as any Ferneyhough).

Indeed, it is now possible to find individual listeners who respond to both composers, though to suggest that a Finzi-Ferneyhough concert might throw up some unexpected affinities, would doubtless still be regarded as a hit-much. Yet the psychological shake-up that is almost upon us should not be underestimated: within but a few months we shall be talking about all this stuff as music of the last century.

*Endless Parade: Royal Festival Hall: 0171-960 4242; Bridgewater Hall, Manchester: 0161-907 9000; Maida Vale Studios: write to the Radio Ticket Unit, BBC, London W1A 4WW; Ulster Hall, Belfast: write to the BBC Concert Ticket Unit, Broadcasting House, Belfast BT7 3HQ. All concerts broadcast on Radio 3*

## ON THE AIR

ANTHONY PAYNE

NO ONE ever put up a statue to a critic, it is often said. Not unless the critic is something else as well. Surprisingly, for a series aimed at the least critical sort of listener, *Sound Stories* on Radio 3 this week chose five music critics. Hans Keller, who appeared on Wednesday, must be spinning in his grave. He called music criticism a phoney profession, though it may have been the profession rather than the act of criticism he distrusted.

He did a good deal of it himself, both as a BBC music producer and as an intellectual celebrity who seems to have memorised every note of Haydn's string quartets and virtually owned Schoenberg. He was not only the prophet of the immortals, either, for Britten dedicated his third string quartet to him. After retirement, Keller wrote for the late, lamented *Listener*, castigating brass-tub sequences such as *Mainly for Pleasure* (precursor of *In Tune*) on Radio 3 while unashamedly praising not just the programmes he approved of, but also their producers. Keller's real importance, though, was in showing how music worked, and writers on the subject still refer to him 12 years after his death.

One of the first to give public lectures explaining the art was the Viennese critic Edward Hanslick, the model for the picketing, hide-bound Beckmesser in Wagner's *Die Meistersinger*. Yet, as Donald Macleod pointed out in Monday's programme, Hanslick wrote a generous obituary of Wagner, which is more than the egocentric and famously mean-spirited Wagner would ever have done for him.

Hanslick has been cast as the archetypal poison-pen critic, opposing anything progressive. His silliest criticisms were levelled at Tchaikovsky, whose Violin Concerto "stank", he wrote, and who would have rewritten the five-in-a-bar waltz in the Pathétique Symphony in a more regular metre. Yet Hanslick can hardly be blamed for finding some of Richard Strauss's earlier music exaggerated and tasteless – many still think that – and he became opposed to Wagner only as the latter developed the idea of seamless music drama, dissolving the old formal divisions in opera.

Wagner's music was still contentious during Debussy's periodic stints of music criticism, outlined on Tuesday. Whereas Beethoven's writing for the orchestra was black and white, allowing for the most interesting gradations of grey in between (he wrote), Wagner's was a sort of multi-coloured putty that obscured the individual character of instruments, so that it became hard to tell strings from trombones. Which sounds very much like a question of taste – you could just as well praise Wagner for wonderful blending.

Debussy inveighed against pale French imitations of Wagner precisely because he fought so hard not to become one himself. For him, Wagner was an artistic father-figure who had to be, if not buried, then at least superseded. And while never admitting any influence from Wagner, he had no hesitation in telling someone about to see Mussorgsky's *Boris Godunov* that the whole of his own *Pelléas* was there.

Mussorgsky was one of Debussy's great causes, not least because he was hardly known, even in Russia, and Debussy – always the iconoclast – likened him to "an inquisitive savage who discovers music for the first time". As criticism – heightening our awareness or pinpointing what we may already have felt – that is brilliant. But still more thrilling is the fact that Debussy, one of the determining forces of music's last hundred years, said it, and so revealed something of himself.

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NEW YORK TIMES

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Two new CD box-sets celebrate the work of legendary Romanian conductor Sergiu Celibidache

## Munich's mystic maestro

SERGIU CELIBIDACHE, the Romanian-born conductor who died in 1996 at the age of 84 and who for most of his life refused to make records, is now the subject of two massive compact-disc retrospectives. And the paradoxes don't end there.

Christian Gansch, the producer is central to both projects – as mastermind of Deutsche Grammophon's 60-CD "Celibidache Edition", and as leader of the Munich Philharmonic's second violin section on a similar edition for EMI. Gansch, who has produced key DG recordings by pianist-conductor Mikhail Petrenko, conductor James Levine and many other celebrated musicians, played under "Celi" (as Celibidache was popularly known in Munich from 1981 to 1990). By then, Munich's mystic maestro was slowing repertoire masterworks to infinity, lengthening the playing time of a 60-minute symphony by an average of 15 minutes or more.

Celi was always poised at the centre of controversy, adored by some, intensely disliked by others. He had been thrown into prominence in post-war Germany at the helm of the Berlin Philharmonic, peddling the de-Nazification of Wilhelm Furtwängler. Thereafter, he held various positions, angered or inspired orchestras with his demands for extra rehearsal time and later vented his resentment at not being chosen to succeed Furtwängler in Berlin. His tenure as General Music Director at Munich last

ended from 1979 until his death.

According to Gansch, he would regularly tell the ladies and gentlemen of the Munich Philharmonic "that they were much better than their Berlin counterparts. Some critics will have agreed with him. EMI have chronicled Celi's remarkable Munich sojourn in three boxed sets, one of mixed repertory, another devoted to Celi's beloved Bruckner and a third (forthcoming) of Brahms and Beethoven.

Gansch prefers to focus on an earlier period in Celi's career. "The earlier performances have more energy and more rhythmic thrust," he said to me in Munich recently, "and I think that approach works better. Sometimes the slower speeds make concentrating more difficult, and then it is not always easy to enter Celi's unique sound-world."

Brahms's four symphonies are first on the agenda. The cycle was recorded with the Stuttgart Radio Symphony Orchestra between 1971 and 1976, but discerning Celi-fanciers might prefer to wait until EMI launch their Munich alternatives (in a month or so), then weigh the relative virtues of both sets. On the evidence of Brahms's First Symphony, DG's Stuttgart Brahms cycle is a stunner. Another DG set – due for release in late spring/early summer – will include orchestral works by Richard Strauss, including *Ein Heldenleben*, or *A Hero's Life*. Celi conducted *Ein Heldenleben* very often.

Celi's only son Ioan is keen that DG and EMI offer definitive alternatives to the many poor-quality "pirate" CDs of his father's live performances. Although the mature Celibidache fought shy of recording (he had made a handful of records just after the war), he did agree to have his Munich performances released on video and laser-disc. Why? "He told me that it was because people who look at videos don't listen to the music. So I don't care about the quality," said Gansch.

His relationship with Celi started auspiciously. On one occasion, during his "trial" with the Munich Philharmonic, the young violinist was playing on tour in Napoli when Celi suddenly screamed his name. "Gansch!" he roared, "don't play like that! I want less bow!" I was completely shocked, and so was the orchestra. During the interval, I went to the orchestra manager and said that from that moment my position in the orchestra would be free. I would not agree to play under such circumstances, so I went home."

"Four weeks later, during a Munich rehearsal, Celi came up to me with tears in his eyes. He put his arms around me and

said me what had been going on. You know Maestro," I said, "if you behave like that during concerts, I cannot play." He was obviously taken aback. "But I didn't mean it like that," he said. And from then on, our relationship improved significantly."

Other Celibidachian foibles included a marked dislike for individualism within the orchestral community and an occasional tendency to "get personal". He also had great integrity and respected the views of those who disagreed with him, even if he reacted unfavourably at the time.

Celibidache inspired great loyalty. When Christian Gansch left the orchestra to work for Deutsche Grammophon, Celi was both angry and disappointed. A little later, when the newly installed record producer tried to coerce him into recording, he once again declined the offer.

"Now that he's dead," says Gansch wistfully. "I can imagine him sitting in Heaven and saying, 'because you left me, as punishment you must sit down and listen to all the Celibidache tapes in the world!'" Profits for both the DG and EMI editions will be donated to educational and humanitarian causes.

Sergiu Celibidache's SWR Stuttgart Radio recordings of Brahms's four symphonies (including a rehearsal sequence of the Fourth) is on Deutsche Grammophon 459 635-2 (3 discs).



Sergiu Celibidache

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## FRIDAY RADIO

**RADIO 1**  
(97.6-99.8MHz FM)  
6.30 Zoo Ball. 9.00 Kevin Greening.  
12.00 Jo Whiley. 2.00 Mark Radcliffe. 4.00 Chris Moyles. 5.45 Newsbeat. 6.00 Pete Tong's Essential Selection. 9.00 Judge Jules. 11.00 Westwood - Radio 1 Rap Show. 2.00 Fabio and Grooverider. 4.00 - 7.00 Emma B.

**RADIO 2**  
(88.9-92MHz FM)  
6.00 Sarah Kennedy. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Songs of the Century with Paul Gambaccini. See Pick of the Day. 2.00 Ed Stewart. 5.00 Des Lynam. 7.00 The Michael Feinstein Songbook - Turns Another Page. 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night. 9.15 John le Carré's Single and Sin. 9.30 Stainer's Crucifixion. 10.30 Sheridan Morley. 11.45 The People's Psalm. 12.00 Lynn Parsons. 4.00 - 6.00 Jackie Bird.

**RADIO 3**  
(90.2-92.4MHz FM)  
6.00 On Air.  
9.00 Masterworks.  
10.30 Artist of the Week.  
11.00 Sound Stories.  
12.00 Composer of the Week:  
Reger. With Misha Donat. String Trio in A minor. Op 77b (Lerchetti). Vienna Trio. Schlichte Weisen (excerpts). Hermann Prey (baritone). Gunther Welzhausen (piano). Variations and Fugue on a Merry Theme of Hitler. Bavarian RSO/Colin Davis.

1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. Borodin Quartet. Beethoven: String Quartet in B flat. Op 130 (Grosse Fuge). 1.50 Bach's St John Passion. Chris de Souza introduces a concert given yesterday as part of the Enlightenment's residency at St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol. Rachel Elliott (soprano), Michael Chance (counterertenor), Mark Padmore (tenor), Michael George and Stephen Varcoe (basses), Chorus and Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment/Gustav Leonhardt. Bach: St John Passion.

4.00 Music Restored.  
4.45 Music Machine.  
5.00 In Tune. With Sean Rafferty, including Starmizzi Oboe Quartet in D. Op 8, performed by Terzetto and Paul Goodwin (oboe).  
6.00 Performance on 3. Wagner's final music drama, in the moving new

## PICK OF THE DAY

COMPILING SMUG end-of-the-century overviews before the century has ended looks like tempting fate. Songs of the Century with Paul Gambaccini (12noon R2), presented over the Easter weekend, is courting not just fate but bad taste. Radio 2 listeners, music industry insiders and sales figures have determined this chart-of-charts.

In Good Friday Liturgy - The

English National Opera production by Nikolaus Lehnhoff, conducted by ENO's former music director Mark Elder and featuring a stunning all-British cast: Kim Begley, tenor (*Parsifal*); Kathryn Harries, soprano (*Kundry*); Gwynne Howell, bass (*Gurnemanz*); Jonathan Summers, baritone (*Amonasro*); ENO Chorus and Orchestra/Mark Elder. Part 1.

9.05 Postscript. Twenty-five years after W H Auden's death, poets and critics reassess his poetry and make a personal selection of readings (5/5). (R)

9.25 Parsifal, part 2.

11.00 Glenn Gould. The great Canadian pianist plays music written for the virginals by Byrd and Gibbons.

11.30 Jazz Century. Russell Davies presents a 52-part history of jazz.

13. Handful of Keys focuses on the work of pianists Earl Hines and Art Tatum.

14.00 Composer of the Week:  
Schubert. (R)

1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

**RADIO 4**  
(92.4-94MHz FM)

6.00 Today.

9.00 NEWS; Desert Island Discs.

9.45 Serial: Pilots.

10.00 NEWS; Woman's Hour.

11.00 NEWS; Journey into Space.

11.30 Married.

12.00 NEWS; You and Yours.

12.57 Weather.

1.00 The World at One.

1.30 Picture Panel.

2.00 NEWS; The Archers.

2.15 Afternoon Play: J Edgar Hoover - Public Enemy.

3.00 NEWS; Good Friday Liturgy - the Seven Last Words. See *Pick of the Day*.

3.30 Rigby's Red Herrings. (R)

3.45 This Scared Isle.

4.00 NEWS; Open Book.

4.30 The Message.

5.00 PM.

5.57 Weather.

6.00 Six O'Clock News.

6.30 The News Quiz.

7.00 NEWS; The Archers.

7.15 Front Row. Vikram Seth, author of *'A Suitable Boy'*, one of the longest and most popular novels of the 90s, speaks about his career and his new novel, *'An Equal Music'*, at the rate of lost love set in London.

7.45 High Days, Holy Days. A selection of readings for Easter. 5: Good Friday. New clothes, hot cross buns, hiding away in a monastery and friends for tea, as related by Vera Brittain, Boswell, Kilvert and Virginia Woolf. Read by Charlotte Corwell, Denys Hawthorne, Kathryn Hart, Leo McKern and Leslie Phillips.

8.00 NEWS; Any Questions? Nick Clarke is joined in Colne, Lancashire, by Ron Davis MP, Claire Fox, Theresa May and Alex Salmond MP.

8.45 Letter from America. Alastair Cooke with another slice of America.

9.00 NEWS; The Friday Play: Missing the Melody. By Karen Hope. An examination of sound told from the perspective of a woman who is profoundly deaf. Lucy, a gifted violinist, became deaf in her early teens.

Now, 15 years later, she awaits the result of an operation which will re-



Dominic Cavendish

store her hearing. But will her memories and expectations match reality?

With Emma Fielding and Richard Hope. Director Cathryn Ham. (R)

10.00 The Word Tonight. With Robin Lustig.

10.45 Book at Bedtime: My Mother's House. Janet Suzman concludes her reading of Colette's memoir. Colette remembers her mother's defiant encounters with ageing and death. (R)

11.00 NEWS; Late Tackle. Entertaining sports discussion and features, with Eleanor Oroyd and guests.

11.30 Nowhere to Hide. A montage dissecting the split-second world of the boxer via the prose of Joyce Carol Oates's classic study, *'On Boxing'*. With the voices of boxers Chris Eubank and Duke Mackenzie; referee Larry O'Connell; ringside doctor Adrian Whitson; and boxing fan Kenny Shale. Expert commentary from Harry Carpenter.

12.00 News.

12.30 The Late Book: Aga of Austria.

12.48 Shipping Forecast.

1.00 As World Service.

5.30 World News.

5.35 Shipping Forecast.

5.40 Indoors Forecast.

5.45 Prayer for the Day.

5.47 Leisure Update.

5.56 - 6.00 Weather.

**RADIO 5 LIVE**  
(93.0-99.8kHz MW)

6.00 Breakfast.

9.00 Brian Hayes.

11.55 Super League.

2.00 Early Drive.

4.55 The Friday Match.

7.00 News Extra.

7.30 Alan Green's Sportsnight. Alan Green and his studio guests discuss the week's sporting issues and look ahead to the Easter weekend's fixtures. Plus full commentary on Aston Villa v West Ham in the Premiership.

10.00 Late Night Live. Insight and comment on the day's big issues with Brian Hayes. Including Papal talk. 10.30 Sport. 11.00 News. 11.15 The Financial World Tonight.

11.30 Up All Night.

5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

**CLASSIC FM**  
(92.4-101.9MHz FM)

6.00 Michael Fanstone. 8.00 Henry Kelly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 Jamie Crichton. 6.30 Newsnight. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert.

Schütz: Easter Histories. Stuttgart Chamber Choir, Musica Folia Köln, Stuttgart Baroque Orchestra/Frieder Bernius. Haydn: The Seven Last Words. Detma Quartet. 11.00 Alan Mann. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

**VIRGIN RADIO**  
(121.5, 127-129MHz MW 105.8MHz FM)

12.00 Russ Williams. 9.30 Mark Forrest. 1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00 Harriet Scott. 7.00 Wheels of Steel. 11.00 Janey Lee Grace. 2.00 - 6.00 James Merritt.

**WORLD SERVICE RADIO**  
(198kHz LW)

1.00 The World Today. 1.30 Science in Action. 1.55 My Century.

2.00 The World Today. 2.30 Meridian (Books). 3.00 The World Today.

3.30 World Business Report. 3.45 Insight. 4.00 The World Today. 4.20 Sports Roundup. 4.30 Weekend.

5.00 The World Today. 5.30 - 6.00 People and Politics.

**TALK RADIO**

6.00 David Banks and Paul Ross.

9.00 Scott Chisholm and Sally James.

12.00 Motoring. 1.00 Anna Raeburn. 3.00 OK to Tak. 5.00 The SportZone. 8.00 Nicky Horne's Access All Areas. 10.00 James H Reeve. 1.00 - 6.00 Mike Dickin.

## SATELLITE AND CABLE

## PICK OF THE DAY

THE FILMFOUR schedule tonight, introduced by chefs Nigel Slater and Gordon Ramsay, is devoted to a culinary theme. *The Scent of Green Papaya* (6pm FilmFour), Tran Anh Hung's touching debut feature, tracks the fortunes of a young Vietnamese country girl who becomes the servant of a middle-class Saigon family during the 1960s. *Eat Drink Man Woman* (8pm), the bitter sweet drama of Ang Lee (2.5am) which is an over-the-top sex farce.

JAMES RAMPTON



JAMES RAMPTON

vs St Helens (2173). 6.00 Sky Sports Centre. 7.17/22. 7.00 Football Special: Aston Villa vs West Ham (565683). 10.00 Sports Centre (8289). 11.00 Hold the Pack (3064). 12.00 Sports Centre (5023). 1.30 Inside the Senior PGA Tour (1291289). 8.00 Budweiser Basketball Manchester Giants vs St Helens (6952). 3.30 Super League (5642). 5.30 - 6.00 Total Sport (9751).

**SKY SPORTS 2**

7.00 Aerobics (222983). 7.30 Sky Sports Centre (1071293). 7.45 Survival of the Fittest (127293). 8.15 Formula Three Racing (889378). 8.45 Sky Sports Centre (940371). 9.00 The Simpsons (7098-82). 9.30 Super League Nine (565912). 10.30 World Wrestling Federation (975192). 12.00 Through the Keyhole (1261928). 1.30 Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction (976192). 1.40 Mauri Pööök (6903937). 2.30 Film: The Big Christ Died (1990). 17/20. 2.45 Roseanne Show (1202227). 10.00 Jerry Springer Show (1272227). 10.50 Maury Povich (175458). 11.40 The Heat Is On (1719202). 12.10 Through the Keyhole (1261928). 12.40 Rescue Me (1846180). 13.00 Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction (1061943). 1.25 The Roseanne Show (1202227). 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (1272227). 1.45 Animal Rescue (1246596). 5.00 LA Law (358519). 9.00 Film: Saved by the Light (1957191). 11.00 The Spice Girls (1202227). 12.00 Close.

**EURO SPORTS**

7.00 Aerobics (1222983). 7.30 Sky Sports Centre (1071293). 7.45 Formula Three Racing (889378). 8.15 Formula Three Racing (889378). 8.45 Sky Sports Centre (940371). 9.00 The Simpsons (7098-82). 9.30 Super League Nine (565912). 10.30 World Wrestling Federation (975192). 12.00 Through the Keyhole (1261928). 1.30 Inside the Senior PGA Tour (1291289). 8.00 Go! Arnold Palmer (1272227). 10.30 Racing Line (97622). 11.30 Swimming (1272227). 2.30 Football (1272227). 4.00 Terms (1272227). 5.30 Trial (654282). 6.30 Mad Masters Winter Games (6753). 7.00 Swimming (1272227). 8.00 Tennis (654282). 9.00 Boxing (1272227). 10.00 Boxing (1272227). 11.00 Yogi Acron (654282). 12.00 Mad Masters Winter Games (654282). 12.30 Close.

**SKY SPORTS 3**

12.00 Transworld Sport (7653489). 1.00 Sports Unlimited (7653489). 2.00 BBC Cheltenham Football Scrapbook (5022028). 4.30 Rhoda (1220205). 5.00 All Creatures Great and Small (520792). 6.00 Dynasty (543493). 7.00 The Comedy At-

side the Senior PGA Tour (1272227). 8.00 Baseball (5213289). 9.30 Micro-Pins (12423165). 6.00 Golf Arnold Palmer - Golf's Heart and Soul (2423289). 6.30 Inside the Senior PGA Tour (1291289). 8.00 Budweiser Basketball Manchester Giants vs St Helens (6952). 10.00 World Wrestling Federation (975192). 12.00 Through the Keyhole (1261928). 1.30 Rescue Me (1846180). 1.40 The Heat Is On (1719202). 12.00 Close.

**SKY SPORTS 4**

12.00 Crossroads (1447376). 12.40 The Three Stooges (1442234). 1.00 Planed Plant (169260502). 1.30 Film: Scott of the Antarctic (14432161).

4.30 Rick Lake (99661847). 5.00 Planed Plant (14032260). 5.30 Countdown (1496227). 6.00 Newsworld (14

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THE FRIDAY REVIEW  
The Independent 2 April

# ROBERT HANKS

## TELEVISION Review

<b>10 PM</b> <b>9 PM</b> <b>8 PM</b> <b>7 PM</b> <b>6 PM</b> <b>5 PM</b> <b>4 PM</b> <b>3 PM</b> <b>2 PM</b> <b>1 PM</b> <b>12 PM</b>	<p><b>7.00</b> <b>News</b> <b>Weather! Regional News</b> (575991B). <b>7.10</b> <b>Spot</b> (6440622). <b>7.40</b> <b>Sparkey's Magic Piano</b> (076192).</p> <p><b>B-30</b> <b>The Silver Brumby</b> (28444). <b>8.00</b> <b>Inch-High Private Eye</b> (7553550). <b>8.25</b> <b>The Midas Touch</b> (7363937). <b>8.55</b> <b>Teleubbiea</b> (7387837). <b>10.20</b> <b>The World of Peter Habb and Friends</b> (5) (6575531). <b>10.55</b> <b>News, Regional News Weather</b> (T) (8306895). <b>11.00</b> <b>The Shadow of the Croc</b> (5192). <b>12.00</b> <b>The Peoples' Passion</b> (1958602). <b>12.30</b> <b>News, Weather: Regional News</b> (4702206). <b>1.08</b> <b>Battersea Dogs' Home</b> (B4191376). <b>1.25</b> <b>Neighbours</b> (84195192).</p> <p><b>1.30</b> <b>ITV Beck to the Future</b> (Robert Zemeckis 1985 US). Eighties high-school kid Michael J Fox is transported back to the 1950s, when his parents were 17-year-olds, by a modified DeLorean car. Christopher Lloyd plays the whacky inventor responsible in Robert Zemeckis and Bob Gale's clever, entertaining fantasy (32600260).</p> <p><b>3.40</b> <b>Children's 88C: Flame</b> (S) (75844). <b>4.20</b> <b>Brentbridge Hedge</b> (S) (7662026). <b>4.45</b> <b>Swap 'Til You Drop</b> (S) (T) (461314). <b>5.15</b> <b>News: Weather: Regional News</b> (2662314).</p> <p><b>5.40</b> <b>Neighbours</b> (S) (T) (4816851).</p> <p><b>6.05</b> <b>ITV Beethoven</b> (Eden Levant 1992 US). Surprisingly engaging shaggy dog comedy, which sees canine-hating suburban pet-owner Charles Grodin stealing the movie from the eponymous St Bernard that is destroying his home. Willly scripted, bracingly caustic and featuring a cast that also includes one-time Disney regulars Debra Jo Rupp and a pre-X Files David Duchovny (S) (T) (3856173).</p> <p><b>7.30</b> <b>Top of the Pops</b>. This week's guests include B*Witched, Billie, New Radicals, Mariah Carey and, as number one, Mr Dizo with Fist Eric (S) (T) (BG).</p> <p><b>8.00</b> <b>Ground Force</b>. The team revisit the patch of weeds Whitley Bay that they transformed into a seashore garden 16 months ago (S) (T) (B550).</p> <p><b>8.30</b> <b>Chenging Rooms Redecorated</b>. Anna Ryder-Richardson finds out what became of the dining room she designed in Birmingham in a previous series. See Ground Force, above, and spot the trend (S) (318589).</p> <p><b>9.10</b> <b>News! Regional News: Weather</b> (T) (200289).</p> <p><b>9.30</b> <b>ITV The Dark Room</b>. 1/2. New two-part thriller adapted from Minette Walters' novel and starring Dee Kirwan as a crash victim suffering from amnesia. See <i>Dream of His Day</i>, below (S) (T) (2806685).</p>
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**7.45** **Film** **The Old Dark House** (James Whale 1932 US). The first of two James Whale movies today is this wonderful, tongue-in-cheek gothic horror pastiche in which a group of stranded travellers (including Charlie Laughton and Mervyn Douglas) is forced to take refuge with a sinister, decadent family whose butler is played by Boris Karloff. Get up early or set the video (B45D462).

**8.55** **Film** **Men's Favourite Sport?** (Howard Hawks 1964 US). Filially entwining comedy starring Rock Hudson as a lusting-sickle salesman who hates anything Pauline Prentiss plays his amorous PR woman (6288866).

**10.50** **Film** **Kidnapped** (Dolbert Mann 1971 US). Michael Caine makes a surprisingly good Alan Brack. In this trim adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's Jacobite rebellion adventure, With Trevor Howard, Donald Pleasence and exteriors shot in Scotland (20530314).

**12.30** **Birds with Tony Soper** (F) (S) (3747550).

**12.50** **Devils Cup Tennis: Great Britain vs USA**. Well-known tennis this afternoon and early evening as BBC2 covers the opening day's Davis Cup singles matches from Birmingham's National Indoor Arena. Can Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski inspire Britain to win this competition for the first time since 1938? Introduced by Sue Barker and with commentary from John Barrett, Chris Bellamy, Mark Cox and Peter Fleming (S) (72888911).

**7.00** **Lee and Herring's This Morning with Richard Not Judy** (S) (T) (7444).

**7.30** **Local Heroes**. Adam Hart-Davis visits the North West to celebrate the work of inventors Frank Hornby, streetcar of Maccano, Arthur Dodson, who worked on tide prediction, and astronomer Jeremiah Horrocks (F) (31).

**8.00** **As the Crow Flies**. The crow flies from Dear Heights to Irthopp Moor, crossing Hadrian's Wall (where Janet Street-Porter meets Sir G) (S) (T) (8192).

**B.30** **Gardener's World**. Alan Titchmarsh has some gardening tips for the long Easter weekend (S) (T) (5227).

**9.00** **Murder Most Horrid**. "Dinner at Tiffany's". The last three spoofs sees Dawn French as a dinner lady in love with a headmistress (Frances Barber) (S) (T) (3465).

**9.30** **Never Mind the Buzzcocks**. Pop pleyed for laughs with Tony Wright of Terorvision, Howard Jones, Grant Nicholas of Feeder, and comedian Bill Bailey (443665).

**10.15** **Film** **Reality Bites** (Ben Stiller 1994 US). Writer Helen Crabb's comedy drama about four graduates bicker in Houston will be best appreciated by those

# ITV Carlton

# Channel 4

**7.00 The Big Breakfast** (S) (9B624-395).

**8.05 *Elton* Billy Rose's Jumbo** (Charles Walters' 1962 US). Above-par big-top musical with Doris Day and dad Jimmy Durante battling to salvage their tiny circus to a backdrop of lovely Rodgers and Hart songs; *This Must Be Love*, *The Most Beautiful Girl in the World*, *My Romance* and many others (T) (8202128).

**11.25 *Soy Meets World*** (120668B), **11.50 *T4orce*** (615145), **12.00 *Seaside Street*** (T) (58596), **12.30 *Bawitched*** (R) (T) (5B444C), **1.00 *Pet Rescue*** (55316), **1.30 *The Dozen*** (World of John Stoenman) (R) (80043).

**2.00 *Elton* The Vicious Circle** (Gerald Thomas 1957 UK). Henley Street doctor John Mills has a problem. A film star is found murdered in his flat and the murder weapon is found in his car. He's not guilty of the crime, but can he prove it? Copper Roland Culver investigates (T) (74163).

**3.30 *Collectors' Lot*** (T) (79), **4.00 *Fifteen to One*** (R) (S) (T) (14), **4.30 *Countdown*** (S) (T) (7827314), **4.55 *Raleki Laka*** (S) (T) (6872847), **5.30 *Pet Rescue*** (S) (T) (50).

**8.00 *TFI Friday***. Chris Evans's guests this week are Gall Portar, Suede, Electronic and Ben Folds Five (S) (86463).

**9.00 Channel 4 News Special - The Long Good Friday.** On the anniversary of the historic Good Friday Northern Ireland peace treaty, a look back at the delicate negotiations that finally persuaded sworn enemies such as Sinn Fein and the Ulster Unionists to sign the agreement. But can it be sustained, wonder Jon Snow and guests? (T) (311).

**9.30 Treading Up**. Labour challenge show as, this week, the owners of a Nissan Micra and a Rover Metro look to trade up (T) (T280).

**8.30 Brookside.** Is it finally life end for Jiminy and Jackie? Susannah, meanwhile, mourns Emily and Matthew (S) (T) (3145).

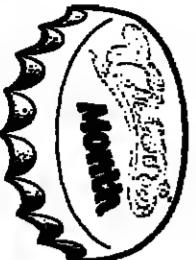
**9.00 Friends.** Rachel accidentally lets Ross's pet monkey escape. From the archives (R) (S) (T) (853).

**9.30 Smeek the Pony.** The second episode of Fiona Allen, Doon Mackichan and Sally Phillips's sketch show was a lot weaker than the first. Let's hope it was only a blip (S) (T) (78208).

**10.00 Frasier.** Woody Harrelson guest stars as Frasier receives a visit from the Cheesecake barmen, Woody. Cue much reminiscing (S) (T) (57227).

# Channel 5

**COMEDY IS PARAMOUNT**



**8** specially selected episodes presented by  
**Cliff** the m�hm Saturday's and Sunday's 9.11pm  
on the Paramount Comedy Channel

## DRAMA OF THE DAY

**CHAT SHOW OF THE DAY**

## FILM OF THE DAY

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## **COMEDY IS PARAMOUNT**

**11.35 The Word on the Street.** The Bishop of Liverpool

show host. Ethan Hawke plays the house-sitting philosopher poet unselling her views on life (S) (51688)

cataamaran cruise. Why, thanks (35005).  
**1100** **ITV** **Nightly News** Weather (1) (H8666).

**11:10 King of the Hill** (6:42/82), **11:40** TFI Friday (8:09/75).

**11.50 [EIM] Improper Conduct (Jag Munchen 1994 US).** with the bad hair day crew (R) (S) (308644).

SAY, OK ONE  
OR TWO...  
OR THREE...

**11.50** **Far and Away** (Ron Howard 1992 US). When we went for Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman's new film Eyes Wide Shut, here they are again in this old-fashioned costume epic about Irish emigration and the settlement of the Old West. Cruise flees Kerry after threatening his landlord and makes his way to the New World with sweet colleen Kidman (*Then We Were*) (S) (T) (69342753). To 205pm.

**12.30** **CLUELESS** **The Bride of Frankenstein** (Jewell Whales 1935 US). To Frankenstein's monster – a wife. James Whale's very camp horror classic with Elsa Lanchester. See *Film of the Day*, below (Then Weatherview 11 19888521) To 150am.

**2.35** **Hill** **Age of Treason** (Kevin Connor 1993 US). A detective mystery set in Ancient Rome – a good idea and one which has surprisingly not been done before. Let's hope they try it again – and more imaginatively than this. Bryan Brown plays the togged sleuth looking into the disappearance of a senator's son (S) (T) (3218E).

**3:10** **Film** *The Howling* (Joe Dante 1980 US). Willy, playful but not very scary California-set werewolf spoof. Dee Wallace stars as a TV journalist who becomes suspicious when she hears howling noises from the woods near the meditation centre run by Patrick Macnee. The ground-breaking man-to-wolf transformation scenes were devised by Rob Bottin (T) (758538). To 4.45am.

**3:25** **Film** *Face the Edge* (Peter Wittingrad 1980 US) Three friends take a skiing trip (6716080). To 4.40am.